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# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Masked man robs store in Dandan. PAGE 3

Study: Minimum wage hikes make no difference. PAGE 5

**OPINION METER**

**This week's poll:**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how safe do you feel in the security of your own home these days?**

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## INSIDE

**Future Actors**

The future keeps calling for Zoe Saldana and Sam Worthington.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

**Brittany, 32**

Actress Brittany Murphy died Sunday in Los Angeles of what appeared to be natural causes. She was 32.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

## NMI November visitor arrivals down 29 pct.

November 2009 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were down 29 percent compared to November 2008, a mark of low travel demand in the month, as well as continuing economic dampeners in primary markets.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 23,008 visitors last month compared to 39,690 in November 2008. So far, the fiscal year total to date is 30 percent fewer visitors than the same period in 2008.

See NMI on Page 4

### IF FEDS GRANT IT TO ALIEN WORKERS

# Fitial won't block 'GREEN CARD'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday they won't oppose the federal government should it decide to grant "green cards" or lawful permanent resident status to nonresident workers in the CNMI.

Fitial

Fitial, however, reiterated that CNMI Public Law 3-66, which he authored when he was a member of the 3rd Legislature, allows foreign workers to come here—as a "privilege"—only if and when resident workers are not available.

"There's nothing in that law that would even suggest that nonresident workers should be granted preferred immigration status," the governor said.

U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law requires the Department of the Interior secretary, in consultation

See GREEN CARD on Page 4

## NMC posts 27 vacancies, mostly managerial positions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has a total of 27 vacancies in various positions and most are key managerial positions.

The college's Web site showed that it now lacks a dean for the School of Edu-

See VACANCIES on Page 4

Seventeen divers from the U.S. Navy's Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 1 Company 1-7 out of San Diego, California, led by officer in charge Lt. Michael Simmons, back row, third from left, and CO 1-7 master diver Randy Saunders, back row, second from left, pose on the deck of the USNS Safeguard at the Saipan seaport yesterday afternoon, after another day of removing "dangers to navigation from the Saipan channel. Inset, a U.S. Navy diver shows one of the largest "dangers to navigation" they have removed from the Saipan channel.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Navy divers remove 15 tons of rocks from Saipan channel

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Navy has so far removed some 15 tons of "dangers to navigation" like corals and rock formations from the Saipan channel, a project which the Saipan Chamber of Commerce says will allow more and bigger military ships to make port visits to the island and therefore boost local tourism.

At least 10 more tons of these underwater obstructions are expected to be removed in the next few weeks.

The ongoing project is done by 17 divers from

See NAVY on Page 4

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# Local

## Musical concert set for families of shooting victims

The Pacific Winds Concert Band, under the direction of Will DeWitt and Christina Nierras, will be holding its annual Christmas holiday concert tonight, with all proceeds going to the families of the victims in the recent shooting rampage in Kanna Tabla.

According to DeWitt, the performance will be held at Pacific Islands Club at 6:30pm tonight and community members are invited to the show. Tickets will be available at the door for only $5 per person.

The band presents its 16th annual Christmas concert in partnership with the musicians of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray concert band. Together, over 50 instrumentalists will be playing at the concert.

Flutes, trumpets, percussion, saxophones, clarinets, horns, trombones and even tubas will be employed in the service of classic tunes as *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, Auld Lang Syne, Jingle Bells, I Saw Three Ships, Russian Christmas Music, O Tannebaum, Silent Night, Silver Bells,* and many more.

DeWitt expressed his appreciation to PIC for hosting the special performance.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that DeWitt had contacted the Naputi family and offered the concert to them.

"The Pacific Winds board

*See MUSICAL on Page 4*

## Woman nabbed for allegedly having sex with a teenager

Police arrested in Chalan Kanoa Friday a woman who allegedly had sex with a minor at her house.

Geraldine Marie Sanchez, 28, was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, and sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman imposed a $2,500 cash bail for the temporary release of Sanchez.

Preliminary hearing was set for Dec. 28 at 9am.

Detective Vincente S. Mareham said that on Sept. 13, 2009 a police officer responded to a call from a woman who reported that Sanchez sexually assaulted her minor son.

Mareham said the boy admitted that he had sex with Sanchez in her room before his 16th birthday.

The defendant admitted she had sex with the boy and that it happened after his 16th birthday. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Tourism Tuesday

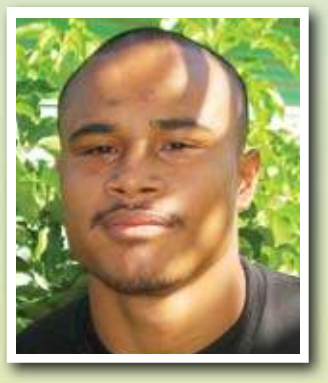
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

*Tourism is everybody's business.*

**Of all your holiday traditions, which one would you most like to share with a tourist?**

*I would like them to sing Christmas carols, like Felis Navidad.*

**Anastasia Santos**



*When my family opens presents, we play a funny song and you have to dance to your present before you can open it. Sometimes it's a prank gift.*

**Derek Rangamar**

*In my family we take turns opening presents on Christmas morning. Starting with the oldest, it gives us a chance to all enjoy each others' presents and best of all, it makes the gift opening take forever!*

**Brooke Nevitt**

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

# Investor sues lawyer, wife for alleged racketeering

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An investor is suing a lawyer and his wife in federal court for allegedly engaging in corporate hijacking and a pattern of racketeering activities.

Jung Ja Kim, a Korean businesswoman, sued lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho and his law offices, his wife Frances C. Quichocho, their company Karissa LLC, and five unnamed co-defendants yesterday.

Kim sued them for violations of the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act, professional malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, conversion, fraud, and constructive trust.

Lawyers Colin M. Thompson and Robert T. Torres are representing Kim in the lawsuit.

When asked for comment, Ramon Quichocho referred *Saipan Tribune* to his counsel, Michael Dotts.

Dotts, however, stated he doesn't represent the Quichochos yet. "We will have to check conflicts. I'm going to make sure I got no conflicts. I am expecting that I will represent him. I'm expecting maybe by the end of this week or early next week I will be representing him. And then I can make a comment as his attorney," Dotts said.

Right now, he said, his only comment is that, as an attorney who has litigated cases both against Quichocho and alongside him, he's always demonstrated a great deal of integrity.

"The allegations that Miss Kim made seem unfounded and the truth will come out," Dotts added.

According to the complaint, Ramon Quichocho used to serve as Kim's counsel, while Frances Quichocho performed document handling, accounting, payroll, business and legal support services for Kim. Frances Quichocho allegedly rendered these services in her own name through Quichocho law offices, and through a company called Karissa LLC.

In 2007, Thompson and Torres said, Kim retained Ramon Quichocho to form limited liability companies to operate in the CNMI.

Thompson and Torres said Ramon Quichocho induced Kim to lease him office space numbers 203 and 204 of the premises on the second floor of the Cabrera Building (Sign Arts Building) in San Jose, Saipan. Kim, who owns the Sign Arts Building, agreed to lease the space at below market rate of $400 monthly.

The Quichochos, the lawyers said, promised that they would assist Kim with labor disputes, mediations, and other filings to operate her operate businesses in exchange for giving them a cheaper rent.

However, Kim said, the law offices and the Quichochos failed to pay the rent.

In 2005, Kim and her spouse, B.S. Choi, divorced. Kim alleged that her former husband continued to harass her for money and property. Because of the harassment and other business problems, Kim became severely depressed in October 2008.

Frances Quichocho, Thompson and Torres said, became routinely late with employee social security filings and failed to submit other data to government agencies. Frances Quichocho also allegedly failed to timely renew tobacco and sanitation licenses required for companies owned by Kim.

For his part, Ramon Quichocho devised a litigation strategy for Kim that proved costly and ineffective, Thompson and Torres said. The lawyers said Ramon Quichocho told Kim he would handle Labor matters and appeal any adverse decisions until he either obtained a successful ruling or the worker leave the island.

With respect to corporate hijacking, Thompson and Torres said that, in April 2008, Kim sought the Quichochos' assistance in forming a new business.

Frances Quichocho offered to sell Kim a company that she, her husband, and an uncle, Joaquin Atalig, had formed in 2006, known as Tan Dingo LLC.

Frances Quichocho, the complaint said, represented that the Quichochos and Atalig would resign from the company and that Kim would own and control Tan Dingo.

Relying on these statements, the complaint said, Kim proceeded with the transaction and paid $650 to the Quichochos for Tan Dingo.

The Quichochos, however, did not resign as members of Tan Dingo, according to Thompson and Torres.

In 2008, Thompson and Torres said, Kim caused several poker machines to be transferred to Tan Dingo for the below market price of $7,600 from Soi-In Corp. and Pacific Saipan, an entity she owned with her daughter.

The Quichochos, Thompson and Torres said, formed Latte Stone LLC with the intention of taking title to poker machines owned by companies in which Kim held a controlling interest.

On Oct. 26, 2008, on the representation that the Quichochos would protect her investment interests, Kim allowed Frances Quichocho to take possession of Tan Dingo assets for transfer to Latte Stone. All in all, Thompson and Torres said, Kim caused a total of 26 poker machines to be transferred to Tan Dingo from other companies in which she held an interest.

At this point, the lawyers said, the total of Kim's contribution to Tan Dingo exceeded $200,000.

Latte Stone Poker, the complaint said, is earning upwards of $30,000 monthly.

# Masked man robs store in Dandan

A female cashier was injured when an armed masked man robbed a store in Dandan yesterday morning.

The cashier, a Korean national in her mid-40s, was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center with injuries to the face.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David said the suspect, described as about 5'9" tall and between 175 to 220 lbs, managed to run off with money from Jenny's Mart.

"The suspect was wearing a black long-sleeved shirt with blue trim ACU pant, and a dark cloth covering his face," David said.

DPS 911 received a call about an injured person at Jenny's Mart yesterday at 9:43am.

When police officers arrived at the store, David said, they found the injured cashier.

Preliminary investigation showed that the suspect, armed with a rifle and wearing a mask, robbed the store by pointing the gun at the cashier. The rifle was described as having a wood stock and chromed barrel.

After the robbery, the suspect ran north along the secondary roadway in front of the store.

The report did not specifically mention how the cashier was assaulted.

"Anyone having information about this crime is ask to please call Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272," David said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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# New law on comprehensive CNMI juvenile justice system

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law a bill creating a comprehensive CNMI juvenile justice system.

This is the first time that such a comprehensive juvenile justice system has been created since the Trust Territory days.

The Juvenile Justice Task Force, which was formed in 2003, reviewed all existing juvenile justice acts across the nation and chose the law that is most recent, comprehensive and adaptable to the CNMI.

After thorough review and discussion, Idaho's juvenile justice act was selected.

Fitial signed into law Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho's House Bill 16-178 on Nov. 30, and he announced this yesterday when he signed a proclamation declaring Dec. 25 to Jan. 8 "Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Awareness Week."

H.B. 16-178 is now Public Law 16-47.

The law repeals and replaces Title 6, Division 5, Chapters 1 and 2, and creates a comprehensive juvenile justice system "that will protect the community, hold the juvenile accountable for his or her actions, and assist the juvenile in developing skills to become a contributing member of a diverse community."

It also establishes a system for the appointment and regulation of guardians *ad litem* to support juveniles and the community at large.

The Juvenile Justice Task Force is composed of representatives from the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender, Division of Youth Services, NMI Bar Association, Department of Public Safety, Public School System, Criminal Justice and Planning Agency, the Superior Court, and volunteers.

The task force completed its draft bill in 2007. A year later, on Oct. 15, 2008, Camacho pre-filed the bill.

The bill passed the House of Representatives on Sept. 23, 2009, and the Senate on Oct. 8, 2009. The governor signed it into law on Nov. 30.

## NAVY

*From Page 1*

the U.S. Navy's Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 1 Company 1-7 out of San Diego, California, along with personnel from the USNS Safeguard.

This is the third time this year that the U.S. Navy has undertaken this kind of project in the CNMI.

Leading the team are officer-in-charge Lt. Michael Simmons, and CO 1-7 master diver Randy Saunders.

"Divers are working hard to clear the dangers to navigation in the Tanapag harbor entrance. Our end goal is to provide safe access to more classes of Navy ships. As a result, more sailors will be able to enjoy the beautiful island of Saipan," Simmons said.

The team arrived here on Nov. 23, and the project is expected to be completed by the end of January 2010.

Saunders, in an interview aboard the docked USNS *Safeguard* yesterday afternoon, said the main priority of this mission is the removal of five "dangers to navigation" in the main Saipan channel.

"They're much larger than the ones in the past. We have to deal with them a little different from what the groups in the past were doing," Saunders said.

Saunders, who used to be stationed in Guam, said the goal is to have a depth of at least 36 feet, "which will then allow larger vessels to enter the port," including destroyers and guided missile cruisers.

He said the biggest they have removed so far weighs some 10 tons or some 20,000 lbs.

"On some of these dangers to navigation, we only needed to take off 4 to 18 inches off of it, instead of bringing out the whole thing because they're so massive. They cover such a large area that some of the techniques that we are using were never tried in the past," he added.

Douglas Brennan, a member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Armed Forces Committee, said clearing the Saipan channel up to 36 feet would mean bigger ships with a deep draft would be able to safely navigate the Saipan channel or the Tanapag harbor, and therefore boost the island's tourism.

"It opens up the ports to more diversified commerce," Brennan said in a phone interview.

He said since the Saipan Chamber of Commerce started tracking U.S. military ships' arrival in 1997, the island has so far received some 51,000 military visitors.

While the CNMI's main tourism markets are Japan and Korea, along with China and Russia, the islands also cater to U.S. military personnel who are here for rest and recreation. The choice of Saipan is mostly because of its status as a U.S. territory, safe location, and natural beauty.

Most of the U.S. Navy divers involved in the ongoing removal of dangers to navigation are on Saipan for the first time.

One of them, Ben Gyger, from San Diego, California, described the place as a "beautiful island."

"The local people are very kind to us," said Gyger, who has been with the U.S. Navy for nine years. He said the team "has put in a lot of hours at sea" as part of the mission, but has also made time to enjoy what Saipan has to offer visitors.

In January this year, 15 U.S. Navy divers also aboard the USNS *Safeguard* removed over 40 tons or 80,000 lbs of corals and rock formations—the biggest U.S. Navy project of its kind so far on Saipan.

## MUSICAL

*From Page 2*

members proposed to donate the proceeds to the surviving family. We seek to give back to the community, especially with the bad economy. We want to let the family know that they are remembered and still being thought of," DeWitt told *Saipan Tribune.*

"There is no target proceeds but we would like the community to come and enjoy the Christmas music and give whatever is in their heart. Since there were four families affected, we would like to collect and give to the families as much as we can," DeWitt said. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

## VACANCIES

*From Page 1*

cation and two department chairpersons for Nursing and Business.

The same job announcement states the college wants to hire two administrative managers for the Business and Nursing departments, as well as a counselor for Student Support Services.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that NMC is also looking for five directors for various departments: the Office of Admissions and Records, School of Education, Student Support Services, U.S. Apprenticeship Program, and Library Programs and Services.

Four program managers are also needed for the UCEDD program; Community Programs and Services; Office of Institutional Excellence; and Student Engagement First Year Experience, Learning Community Programs.

NMC also lacks a program coordinator/counselor for Student Services.

Several instructor positions were also announced for English, Medical Health Sciences, Sciences, and Social Sciences.

An outreach counselor for the College Access Challenge Project also needs to be filled within the year.

NMC is also short of data entry clerks for the Office of Admission and Records and wants to fill four positions in this area.

An accountant and a special assistant to the NMC president is also badly needed.

Early this month, the Office of President Dr. Carmen Fernandez had announced that two key positions are scheduled to be filled within the month: chairpersons for the Department of Languages and Humanities and for the Science, Math, Health, and Athletics Department. The two positions were previously held by long-time instructors Mark Haag and Glenn Keaton. Both their contracts were not renewed early this year.

Fernandez earlier emphasized that despite these vacancies, the quality of instruction remains consistently high at the college.

"NMC is committed to providing a high quality education to its students, and we are working to ensure that our classes, student services, and other college activities are not interrupted by any of the vacancies we have," said Fernandez, adding that the human resource office at NMC is hard at work with the recruitment of highly qualified individuals to fill key positions.

## NMI

*From Page 1*

The drop in arrivals was forecasted by the MVA three months ago for these travel "shoulder" months before the peak yearend holidays.

Arrivals from the Northern Marianas' primary market of Japan were down 40 percent compared to November 2008 with 10,553 visitors. The economic depression in Japan continues to dull outbound travel demand, results in a 48-percent reduction in air seats in November. However, the yearend holidays are expected to bring a turnaround in arrivals, with the restoration of flights from Nagoya and Osaka from the current three times a week to four flights a week. Also, 14 charter flights from five cities in Japan are anticipated for the end of December.

Arrivals from Korea were 23 percent lower in November 2009 than the previous November, registering 6,892 visitors. This is also attributed to lower travel demand in the country. According to the Korea Tourism Organization, the total number of Korean outbound travelers in October 2009 was 714,880, a decrease of 23.4 percent compared to the same month of 2008. Accordingly, airline seats on the Incheon-Saipan route were decreased by 18 percent in November 2009 compared to last year.

Russian arrivals were 18 percent off their November 2008 mark, posting 374 visitors. However, the People's Republic of China saw a 34-percent increase in arrivals to 2,742. Charter flights from China were temporarily suspended following federal takeover of immigration in the Northern Marianas on Nov. 28. However, charter flights will resume on Dec. 18, and visitors from Russian and China without a U.S. visa are still being allowed to visit the Northern Marianas through the Department of Homeland Security parole process.

Arrivals from the Philippines and Taiwan were up to 210 and 43 visitors, respectively. Meanwhile, arrivals were down from Guam (-7 percent to 1,468), the United States (-43 percent to 496) and Other Areas (-36 percent to 230).

Beginning Dec. 18, arrivals are expected to pick up for the holiday season. Hana Tour, one of the major travel agents in Korea, is expecting a 54-percent increase in outbound travelers compared to December of last year. Also, major airlines including Asiana Airlines have reportedly already booked all air seats for early December.

Based on flight and air seat projections for 2010 provided by its airline partners, the MVA is projecting a 3.8-percent increase in arrivals from Japan and a 30-percent increase in arrivals from Korea next year. Japan and Korea comprise 80 percent of the tourism market for the Northern Marianas. ***(MVA)***

## GREEN CARD

*From Page 1*

with the Homeland Security secretary and the CNMI governor, to recommend to the U.S. Congress—as the Interior secretary deems appropriate—a permanent immigration status for guest workers legally residing in the CNMI, by May 10, 2010.

Nonresident worker groups have started circulating a petition seeking lawful permanent resident status or "green card" to long-time foreign workers and others with relatives who are U.S. or Freely Associated States citizens in the CNMI, ahead of the May 2010 deadline.

Fitial said the granting of green cards is a "federal issue."

"I don't have anything to do with it. That's their issue. That's a federal issue," he told reporters in his conference room on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

Personally, Inos said, he won't support the granting of a green card if that status is limited only to the CNMI.

"I don't want it restricted here. If they want to issue green card, that's okay. Whoever is issued a green card can go to New Jersey, can go anywhere. But if the [green] card is limited to the CNMI, then that defeats the whole purpose of looking for our residents to obtain jobs," he said.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has asked the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to consider granting a CNMI-only H-2 visa, describing it as the "true solution" to the mandated reduction in the number of foreign workers in the Northern Marianas.

Although it would be largely identical to the existing federal H-2 visa program, the Chamber-proposed visa would "not" allow egress from the CNMI to Guam or other areas of the United States, and would ensure that the CNMI has access to the workers it needs for the foreseeable future.

Fitial said his main concern is to provide jobs to local workers.

"The law is very specific. Once we identify qualified locals, then the nonresident worker occupying that position should be repatriated and that's in the law," he said.

He said there are available training programs for resident workers, including the Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

"Some local employers are saying that local people are lazy, that they cannot produce. You know why? Because those local employers have no heart to train locals. Every employer should understand that nonresident workers here are only guest workers, they can only able to continue to work here until local workers are qualified. They should respect that," he added.

But the governor said he "will continue to fight for the nonresident workers to remain" in the CNMI as long as they're needed, and this, he said, is the "essence of the lawsuit."

He said he still can't tell when the CNMI government will be able to terminate its contract with the law firm Jenner & Block because one of the three counts of the lawsuit has yet to be adjudicated.

### GAO visit

Fitial said some Government Accountability Office personnel are currently on island to gather data for the minimum wage impact study, but he said another GAO visit will happen in January.

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada confirmed yesterday that by early January, GAO is expected to present its preliminary study on the impact of federal minimum wage increases on the CNMI economy.

President Obama signed on Wednesday an omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill that also delays the next 50-cent minimum wage increase, from May 2010 to September 2010, to give the U.S. Congress more time to review the GAO study on the wage hike impact.

# Study: Minimum wage hikes make no difference

## 'Wage hike will benefit people if prices of goods remain constant'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A study conducted by students of the Northern Marianas College showed that the CNMI minimum wage increases made no difference in the living condition of island people.

The study, which served as the students' final requirement under instructor Sam McPhetres' Current Issues class, said the wage increases would have made more of a difference if the prices of goods had been kept constant.

In a video presentation last week, the researchers said the series of 50-cent increase in minimum wage since July 2007 has resulted in a more difficult situation for many people, businesses, and the Commonwealth economy in general.

The CNMI's minimum wage was at $3.05 in 1996, when the U.S. minimum wage rate was at $4.75 per hour. Since July 2007 and every year thereafter, the CNMI minimum wage was increased by 50 cents and is now at $4.55 an hour. It will keep increasing every year until it reaches the national rate of $7.25 per hour in May 2015. The study indicated that these scheduled increases would likely affect 75 percent of workers on the islands.

NMC students said the wage increases have occurred during the same period that prices of basic goods, gas, drinking water, and utilities skyrocketed, rendering the effects of the wage increase null.

In May 2007—the first scheduled increase—the price of gasoline skyrocketed, according to the Automobile Associations of America.

Researchers found that in 2008, CNMI motorists paid $4.93 per gallon of gasoline, way above the national average of $4.02 cents per gallon.

In 2007, two of the island's biggest water companies also raised their water drinking prices for the first time in many years. The increased was 25 cents, or 5 cents per gallon of drinking water.

Data obtained by researchers showed the cost of regular foods and commodities also went up significantly, with rice and flour among the most expensive products on the island.

They compared the product cost of a 50-pound rice, which was previously set at $19.99. This immediately went up to $35 to $40 after the minimum wage hike.

Researchers also cited a Department of Commerce report indicating that from July to September 2008, the consumer price index rose to 120.2 compared to 113.8 for the same period in 2009.

They also noted a 14.7 index increase in the price for housing and utilities; 9.6 index increase in food; and a 3.4 index increase for medical care.

"Commodity price index recorded over 19 percent increase in full cost within the CNMI over a 10-year period," the study showed, adding that for food alone, a 7 percent full cost increase was noted for 2007 and 2008.

Data culled by researchers also showed that of the CNMI's 8,373 households, 2,616 or one-third are on the food stamp program, which is equivalent to approximately two-thirds of children receiving federal assistance.

### Extremely high cost

During the period covered by the study, researchers said the utility rates on island were at "crisis level," affecting people's quality of living.

Researchers documented that since July 2008, the island experienced unscheduled power interruptions that initially lasted for 2 hours until it became 12 hours on many occasions.

It was the time when CUC was charging residential customers 42.9 cents per kilowatt-hour for the first 500 kilowatts they consumed. The cost went up to 54 cents per kilowatt-hour for users exceeding 2,000 kilowatts.

It was this "crisis" that forced many businesses to close down and leave the island for good.

Also, despite the minimum wage hike, health care remains unaffordable to most people, researchers said.

"Since the wage increase in May 2007, many employers cut their workers' hours from 40 to 32 per week and many have illegally taken away benefits such as health care. Although it is covered under the CNMI law, many employers refused to cover it for their workers," the researchers said, adding that this was why many workers were forced to renew their contract even without the health care benefits.

"As a group, we believe that minimum wage hike would benefit everyone if prices of goods remained constant. On the other hand, it had a positive impact because…it helped us learn how to budget and identify priorities," the researchers said.

The study indicated that the wage hikes would have had a more positive effect if they were initiated in the CNMI many years ago.

# 2 men arrested for sexual abuse of minors

Two men were arrested Friday for alleged sexual abuse of minors in separate incidents.

Ray Anthony Lizama Babauta, 37, and Marcelino Carlos, 39, were taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Associate Judge David Wiseman imposed a $25,000 cash bail on Babauta and placed him on house arrest. Babauta is charged with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Wiseman imposed a $50,000 cash bail on Carlos for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Detective Vincente S. Mareham stated in his report that, on March 11, 2009, a police officer responded to a call from a woman who complained that her former boyfriend, Babauta, sexually abused her daughter.

Mareham said investigation showed that Babauta committed the sexual abuse when the mother was off-island between Aug. 8, 2005 and Sept. 18, 2005.

The child told police that Babauta also allegedly sexually abused her in February 2008 and March 2008 when her mother was off-island.

In Carlos' case, Mareham said that, on Dec. 9, 2009, a Division of Youth Services social worker called the police to report a sexual abuse incident.

Mareham learned that Carlos sexually abused a teenager when she was then 8 or 9 years old.

Carlos also allegedly sexually abused another teenager when she was 8 years old. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on December 22nd, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before December 22nd.

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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR EVENT CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2009
RARAINA CHRISTMAS EVE - CANDLE LIGHT DINNER
6:30PM - 10:00PM
COURSE A: $60.00 - COURSE B: $40.00

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2009
COSTA TERRACE - EGGNOGG BRUNCH
11:00AM - 2:00PM
ADULT $25.00 • CHILD $12.50

COSTA TERRACE - SEAFOOD NIGHT BUFFET
6:30PM - 10:00PM
ADULT $25.00 • CHILD $12.50

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2009
COSTA TERRACE - SUNDAY BRUNCH
11:00AM - 2:00PM
ADULT $25.00 • CHILD $12.50

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2009
POOLSIDE NEW YEAR'S EVE - GALA DINNER BUFFET
6:30PM - 9:30PM
ADULT $60.00 • CHILD $30.00

RARAINA NEW YEAR'S EVE - GALA DINNER
6:30PM - 10:00PM
ADULT $80.00 • CHILD $40.00

POOLSIDE - COUNTDOWN PARTY
10:00PM - 1:00AM
$10.00

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2010
COSTA TERRACE NEW YEAR - HUNGOVER BRUNCH
11:00PM - 2:00PM
ADULT $25.00 • CHILD $12.50

COSTA TERRACE - SEAFOOD NIGHT BUFFET
6:30PM - 10:00PM
ADULT $25.00 • CHILD $12.50

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(EXCEPT DECEMBER 31ST - POOLSIDE COUNTDOWN PARTY)

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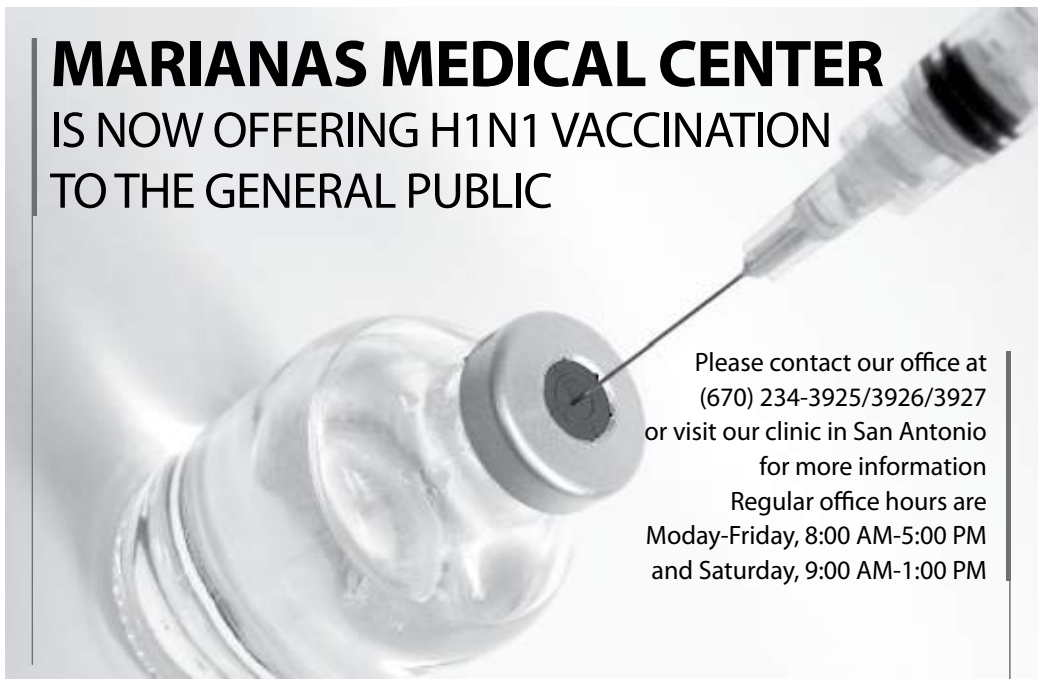
# USDOE to clarify 'Buy America' rule for ARRA projects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By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After months of delay on several energy projects, the U.S. Department of Energy has finally said it will clarify provisions and guide the CNMI in the use of funds provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, particularly on how to comply with the law's Buy America provision.

It was learned that several energy projects have been on hold due to the unavailability of "Made in the U.S" goods that are critical to the completion of many projects.

"After the initial bidding for the lighting retrofits at the CNMI Legislature, the Joeten-Kiyu Library, and the Commonwealth Health Center, we recognized that the lighting ballast required for completion of the projects were not made in the U.S. Even after checking with U.S. firms, such as General Electric, none of the manufacturers could state that products were made in the U.S., as they may have been manufactured in their plants outside of the U.S.," said Geri Willis, CNMI ARRA program manager.

Section 1605(a) of the Recovery Act requires that funds used for the construction, alteration, maintenance or repair of a public building or public work must use products that are produced in the United States.

"There are exceptions to this provision; however, none of the projects we have meet the guidelines for exception. Absent any categorical exceptions, the CNMI must develop a waiver for approval from the U.S. Department of Energy," she said.

Willis said the CNMI followed the guidelines on how to develop the waiver but when they submitted it, the U.S. Department of Energy had no established system to process these waivers.

Willis said she and the rest of the CNMI ARRA Office representatives have "relentlessly been working on clearing this matter up" to ensure that the projects could move forward.

In a recent trip to Washington, D.C., Willis said she was able to contact Howard Dickenson, assistant director for recovery operations at the U.S. Department of Energy.

# '1 burglary every 4 hours'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An average of one burglary occurs every four hours in the CNMI these days.

"It's very alarming. I would like to see the increase in burglaries curtailed," Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday before signing a proclamation declaring Dec. 25 to Jan. 8 "Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Awareness Week."

The governor said enforcement agencies should not only enforce underage drinking laws but also focus on addressing burglaries.

"I asked the Department of Public Safety and the Office of the Attorney General to focus on this serious issue of burglaries in the Commonwealth. …The program should be supported and prioritized throughout the Commonwealth."

DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela announced last week that DPS is reorganizing its special coalition to curb the surge in burglary, robbery, and theft incidents in the CNMI.

DPS reported 1,924 cases of burglary, robbery, and theft on Saipan in 2008.

This year so far, police have so far reported 2,010 cases of burglary, robbery, and theft.

## Federal grants

Criminal Justice and Planning Agency executive director Jerome Ierome, in yesterday's proclamation signing, said there have been over $1.645 in federal grants that have come CNMI's way to support youth and juvenile programs.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said CJPA should be lauded for its efforts in securing these funds.

Also present at the ceremony were Youth Advisory Council chairman Edward Manibusan and vice chairman Patrick V. Diaz, Juvenile Justice Task Force chairman Thomas J. Camacho, along with other enforcement agency representatives.

The legal drinking age in the CNMI is 21 years old.

Uncle Ben's Saipan Dream Academy Starz' Concert

*Message of Appreciation*

A vibrantly colorful, exciting and thought provoking event happened at the Susupe Multi-purpose Auditorium last Friday night. It is the Uncle Ben's Saipan Dream Academy Starz' Concert with a two hour and a half music and dance performances from the different musical era which culminated to a Christmas medley with everybody singing the popular Filipino TV Channel's Bro. Ikaw and Star ng Pasko. The parents are teary eyed wondering how 15 kids mostly from 7 to 9 years old can continuously perform for a very long period without getting exhausted. "This is the true strength of a real multimedia performer", commented one of the guests. One played a ukulele while singing the popular "I'm yours " tune and made a ukulele duet with his teacher Charry de Guzman, the all around dance choreographer and music teacher. Miss De Guzman is assisted by Jerome Bella, a professional stage designer and physical education instructor and Joseph Quistadio, music and dance performer-choreographer and a nurse by profession.

Uncle Ben "Tuhu" Borja, the owner of the company would like to thank the CNMI community especially the proud parents of the kids for supporting the studio for the last five years since its foundation in 2004. Uncle Ben's Studio had produced programs for Magic 100.3 FM in 2004 to 2005, MCV Channel 7 in 2005 and has a current Internet Video Channel called UNCLEBENSAIPAN at You Tube. "We are also producing radio & TV commercials and Live shows for all types of activities. We have recorded some music of local artists such as Alex "Colonel" Sablan, Parker, Marvin, Jesse Castro, Walden & Violy and USP Palauan Club Stars as well as religious and choir numbers from different congregations. We operate our own sound system and video production equipment so we can produce shows with the least possible cost which mostly are free for the public", added Mr. Borja.

The current Saipan Dream Academy Bulilit Starz are Angela Barbo, Ezekiel Canape, John Guiller Canape, John Jacob Canape, Mikaela Cunanan, John Willard Dimalanta, Donna Galvez, Genae Villagomez Forbes, Leslie Ibarra, Angelo Talens, Britney Tomokane, Clarisse Torio, Mikaela Loise Vergara, Ruschelle and Therese.

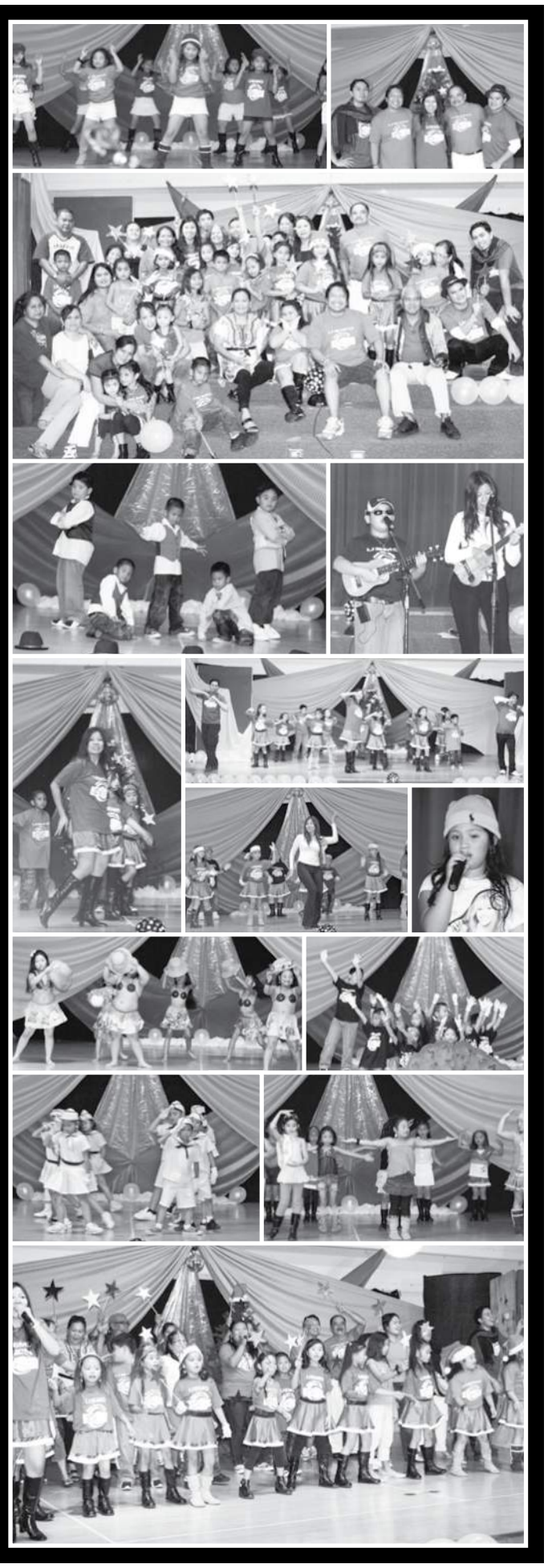
Membership for the Dream Academy Bulilit Project is only from 6 years old up to 10 years old. The graduates have formed their own group to further their skills in music and dance but they occasionally join us during reunions and other big shows.

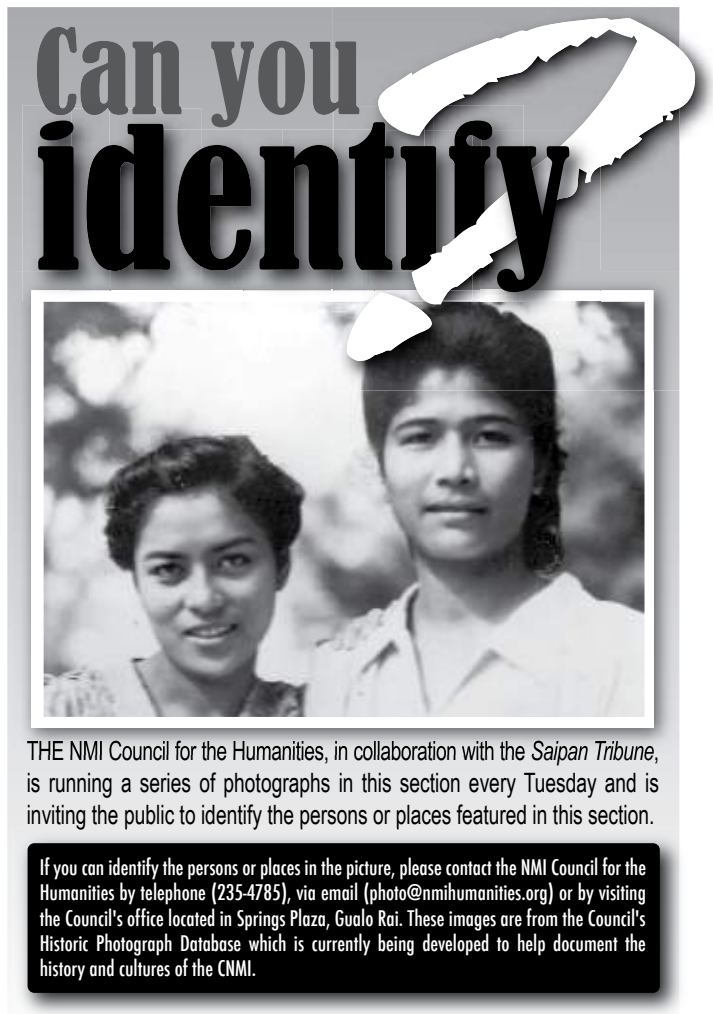
If you want to join the growing pool of talents of Uncle Ben's Studio you can contact George "Magicman" Gomez or Charry at 234-0459, 285-0459 and 285-3560.

Special Thanks

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

together with Saipan Tribune as one of our major sponsors, Magic 100 & Marianas Variety for promotions, and to the following for give aways ,food and service passes: Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan Grand Hotel, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Coco Steak Reastaurant, World Resort, Pacific Islands Club, Shell Company, Coca-Cola, IT&E and CNMI-USA International Business and Professional College.






THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

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# New board member, executive director for Council

The NMI Council for the Humanities selected a new board member and executive director during a special meeting held earlier this month.

The Council elected Tracy M. Guerrero to its board of directors to fill a vacancy created by the departure of Dr. Debra Cabrera, the board's former chair.

**ON THE NET**

Information about the Council and its programs: www.nmihumanities.org

Guerrero serves as director of courts at the CNMI Supreme Court, a position she has held since August 2008. In this capacity, Guerrero is responsible for the overall administrative management of the Supreme Court, including budgeting, human resources, information and technology, court security, and public information.

Prior to joining the staff of the Supreme Court, Guerrero spent six years as a senior analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in San Francisco where she was involved in a variety of audit services.

Guerrero earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California at Berkley and a master's degree in Business Administration from California State University at Hayward with a dual emphasis on finance and new ventures management.

The board also selected Scott Russell to serve as its new executive director. He succeeds Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero, who unexpectedly passed away in August.

Russell joined the Council in December 2001 as the program officer and was promoted to assistant executive director/program officer in 2005.

Russell

Guerrero

Before joining the council, Russell had a career in historic preservation during which he served as the director of the Trust Territory's preservation program and later as deputy director of the CNMI Division of Historic Preservation.

Russell has written widely on the history and historic resources of the Mariana Islands and served six years on the Board of Governors of the NMI Museum of History and Culture.

The Humanities Council is a private, non-profit corporation established in the Commonwealth in 1991. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through the support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. ***(PR)***

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Humanities Council to host book discussion program

The NMI Council for the Humanities invites to public to attend a four-week book discussion program that will explore four classic American novels. The program, which runs from Jan. 18 to Feb. 12, 2010, will be facilitated by Dr. P.F. Kluge, writer-in residence at Kenyon College in Ohio.

Books to be discussed during the program include To Kill a Mockingbird, Old Man and the Sea, Huckleberry Finn, and The Things They Carried. One novel will be considered each week during three 90-minute sessions.

Individuals interested in attending this book discussion program are invited to contact Council staff at 235-4785 to reserve a seat. The program is limited to 100 participants who will be registered on a first come, first served basis. The venue and specific dates and times for sessions will be announced shortly. ***(PR)***

### Red Cross Health & Safety Training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month December 2009:

■ Adult CPR – Dec. 22, 2009, Tuesday, 6pm – 10pm

■ First Aid – Dec. 29, 2009, Tuesday, 6pm – 10pm

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is $30 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is $35 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is $5 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

### Misa de Gallo/Simbang Gabi Mass schedules

The Misa de Gallo/Simbang Gabi/Aguinaldo Mass will run for nine days from Dec. 16 to 24, 2009, until the last Mass in the early morning of Christmas Eve. Here is the schedule for churches:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mt. Carmel | |
| (Filipino) | 4am |
| (Chamorro) | 6am |
| Kristo Rai | 5am |
| San Antonio | 5am |
| San Francisco de Borja | 4am |
| San Jose, Saipan | 5am |
| San Jose, Tinian | 5am |
| Saint Jude | 5am |
| Santa Remedios | 5am |
| San Roque | 5am |
| Santa Soledad | 5:30am |
| San Vicente | 5am |


# Invitation for Bids IFB10-GOV-034

## Security Services for Water Task Force Warehouse

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **December 21, 2009.**

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **10:00 a.m.** local time, **January 8, 2010**, at the CNMI Water **Task Force Conference Room, 1316 Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.**

All questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 pm, January 6, 2010**, to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Bids must be sealed and marked **"IFB10-GOV-034"**. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m**. local time, **January 20, 2010**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **3:00 p.m.** local time, **January 20, 2010,** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 20, 2010,** and must be received no later than **January 29, 2010.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **January 29, 2010**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **January 21, 2010**.

The bid procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any imperfections in any bid if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

**BENIGNO R. FITIAL**
Governor

**HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement & Supply


# Flashback

## A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### Dec. 22, 1998

#### OPA cites gov't 'wastes'

The Office of the Public Auditor has identified more than $23 million in unessential appropriations under FY 1999 budget which the cash-strapped government can either eliminate or curb spending in a bid to boost its shrinking coffers. OPA chief Leo L. LaMotte said the government stands to save $10 million if it strictly complies with the freeze hiring and deferment of salary raise as proposed last January in the first wave of austerity measures by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. "Due to slowdown in economic activity, government operations may not need the number of (full-time employees) budgeted for fiscal year 1999," he said in a letter to Rep. Melvin Faisao.

#### New law removes hiring constraints

A bill easing restriction on the employment of non-resident workers in the Northern Marianas was signed into law yesterday, allowing employers to utilize their employees to perform work outside their job categories specified in the work contract. The measure removes what lawmakers described as "unreasonable bureaucratic or regulatory obstacles" that impede the efficient use and employment of foreign labor. Public Law 11-51 was put in place in response to clamor from the business community to permit the cross utilization of guest employees in view of difficulties confronting employers in acquiring the services of foreign workers because of the indefinite ban on hiring. Businessmen are worried that stringent requirements in employing non-resident workers would affect their operations already hurting from the economic slump.

### Dec. 22, 1999

#### Revamp criminal justice system

The CNMI government must overhaul its criminal justice system to prevent a surge in crimes in light of an independent study that shows an 83 percent jump in admission in the corrections facility over a 10-year period since 1989. In contrast, the study indicated that prosecution of misdemeanor and felony cases lagged behind considerably based on 500 random samples, either due to poor investigation or lack of manpower. Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, chief of the Prison Task Force, advocated for reforms which he said will compliment efforts in improving the prison facilities.

#### Legislature eyes changes to 'public purpose' law

Both the House and the Senate will likely come up with respective legislation amending the "public purpose" law that has sparked disagreement between members of the Legislature and the Tenorio administration in recent weeks. Although lawmakers have reached an "understanding" with Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen on which expenditures they can charge to their government accounts, this amendment is necessary to ensure that problems will not crop up again in the future. Senate President Paul A. Manglona said the meeting last week resulted to an "understanding and better awareness" on what are questionable and acceptable expenses by the Legislature.

### Dec. 22, 2000

#### SEDC unveils economic plan

Local officials are optimistic of better times ahead as the Strategic Economic Development Council begins to carry out steps aimed at enticing investors into the tourism industry and boosting the number of visitors to the islands. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez and other members of the Legislature attended SEDC's presentation of a five-year plan which it hammered out for the past 15 months. It is the first phase of recommendations that both the government and the private sector will have to jointly undertake to give the CNMI a boost to the arm following years of economic slumber.

#### DPW pressed to hasten dump closure

In yet another attempt to fast-track closure of the Puerto Rico dumpsite, the House of Representative has expressed anew its "grave concerns" over the chronic health and environmental hazards it poses to island residents and tourists. In a resolution adopted the other day, members asked Public Works Sec. Juan B. Cepeda to hasten the bidding process to procure services that will shut down the site as dumping ground for trash and garbage on Saipan. The Department of Public Workers has issued a request for proposals from companies interested in undertaking the project until January 19, 2001. But the House resolution called on the DPW chief to "immediately address the regulatory closure... by accepting the best proposal" based on the criteria set by the government.

# US Marines, Wells Fargo team up for 'Toys for Tots'

JOVAN I. FRED

From left, Mark Sablan, Wells Fargo assistant manager; Marine SSgt. Raymond Terlaje II; Angie Deleon Guerrero, executive director of Karidat Social Services; Karidat staff, Wells Fargo staff, and MSgt. Elmer Pagaragan pose for a group photo at the Wells Fargo office in San Jose just before the turnover of the toys to Karidat on Friday, Dec. 18, 2009.

By JOVAN I. FRED
jovan_fred@saipantribune.com
REPORTER-TRAINEE

Wells Fargo is teaming up with the U.S Marines this year for the "Toys for Tots" program, which will give out toys to the islands' indigent children this Christmas season.

Several schools, companies, and individuals donated the toys to Wells Fargo, which the company turned over to Karidat Social Services on Friday, Dec. 18. Angie Deleon Guerrero, executive director of Karidat, received about two truckloads of toys for distribution.

James Matsumoto, Wells Fargo Saipan branch manager, said they are very pleased to have the U.S. Marines assist them in this project this year. "Since the Marines are here on island, they have pledged to help this year and annually," said Matsumoto.

Lavina Dela Cruz, coordinator of this year's program, said, "It is not only the Saipan branch that donates toys to the needy children of the community, but also Guam and the U.S. branches."

Dela Cruz, together with Jessica Kisa, began the toy drive in the CNMI on Nov. 20 this year, collecting toys from schools, private companies, and kind-hearted individuals until Dec. 18.

"Giving toys to the children is something we do every Christmas and we will continue to do it because it is a tradition for Wells Fargo," said Kisa.

Matsumoto emphasized that many of the toys were donated by children, who wanted to help. "These are kids donating toys and wanting to help other kids," he said.

Matsumoto also said the U.S. Marines' commitment to help and work with Wells Fargo on this project has made this year merrier for him and staffs.

"It is a group effort and the first time for the Marines to join us," said Kisa.

The annual "Toys for Tots" drive has been going on for more than 10 years now.

## Island's taxi operators form association

Taxi owners on Saipan have banded together to form a non-profit corporation, called CNMI Taxi Association, to provide a single voice for the island's taxi-cab operators.

The group, which presently has about 60 members, received its business license from the Department of Commerce on Nov. 25, 2009, certifying its status as a non-profit organization.

Association president Edwin Pangelinan said the group will allow everyone to express their views and ideas as one and will also enable them to engage in community work. This will also help members co-exist and unite under one umbrella organization.

"Majority of taxi operators are individual owners and this is a good way of having only group," said Pangelinan.

Association members are taxi drivers at Saipan's seaport, airport and hotels.

Pangelinan said they will not only work behind the wheel but will also reach out to the community. "We are going to do some volunteer beautification for the island," he said. "This is another way of having our group recognized."

Another issue the association will try to address is the presence of illegal taxi operators on the island.

Pangelinan is happy to have everything finalized and the group together. "At first, it was kind of hard to get everyone together, but it's a miracle that these people finally agreed to work together as one in the end," he said.

By forming this association, he said they can present their views and ideas to various government agencies and other business entities.

On Friday, the CNMI Taxi Association gathered at the Civic Center in Susupe for its first get-together. ***(Jovan I. Fred)***

JOVAN I. FRED

CNMI Taxi Association president Edwin Pangelinan, fourth from right, poses with other association members during a get-together at the Civic Center in Susupe Friday night.

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**GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE**
**FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES**

OPENING DATE: **DECEMBER 16, 2009** CLOSING DATE: **DECEMBER 31, 2009**

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund ("NMIRF"), charged with administering the Group Health & Life Insurance Program ("GHLIP"), a separate and distinct trust component of the NMIRF, is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified insurance companies and firms to provide group life insurance coverage to employees and retirees of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Government. To receive the RFP packet, you must fax, e-mail or mail your request to:

Mark A. Aguon, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax: 670/664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

**Census 2010**
**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**
**JOB FAIR**
**Rota & Tinian**

**Dates, Times and Locations to complete an application and be tested are as follows:**

| Rota | Tinian |
|---|---|
| Monday, December 14th – 2:00pm – 7:00pm | Monday, December 21st – 2:00pm – 7:00pm |
| Tuesday, December 15th – 9:00am – 12:00noon | Tuesday, December 22nd – 9:00am – 12:00noon |
| Rota NMC Campus | Tinian NMC Campus |

Testing will be offered approximately every hour for applicants with a completed application. Please bring a picture ID in order to complete the testing on the day of the Job Fair. Practice tests are available on the 2010 Census Website at ***http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/pdf/Practice_Test.pdf***

A police clearance is not needed to apply and will be completed prior to employment if selected, along with a mandatory drug screening. Both the police clearance and the drug screening costs will be reimbursed after hire. Other US Census employment requirements are as follows:

- Must be at least 18 years old and a high school graduate or have a GED. Some people, however, may be hired at age 16 if they meet conditions of employment set by local laws and are high school graduates.
- Be a U.S. citizen (However, if not a U.S. citizen, an applicant may be considered if qualified workers are still needed as translators or enumerators with special language skills)
- Have a social security number before being appointed.
- Must submit to the FBI fingerprint screening.
- Pass a written test of basic skills
- Have a valid driver's license (for most field jobs)

Applications can be picked up at the OPM office on Tinian and Rota and completed in advance of the Job Fair. Please bring the completed application to the Job Fair, including a photocopy of a picture ID and high school diploma. If an application was submitted in advance of the Job Fair, Census staff will have a list of all applications submitted and will allow applicants to complete testing during the Job Fair on Rota and Tinian. Copies of an applicant's ID and high school diploma can also be added at the Job Fair.

All information about job opportunities is posted on 2010 CNMI Census tab on the CNMI Department of Commerce website at http://www.commerce.gov.mp . Further information is also available by calling the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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**Mark Rabago** ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

## One cheer for Copenhagen

Late Friday at the Copenhagen climate conference, cheers erupted when word came that President Obama had struck a deal with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. But privately, some climate activists scratched their heads. What, exactly, were people cheering?

The agreement emerging from the talks isn't bold. It will include greenhouse gas mitigation targets for developed and major developing countries, which had been announced before the conference. It noted developed countries' pledge of $100 billion annually by 2020 to assist developing countries, and it prioritizes funding for those most in need. In return, major developing countries agreed—generally—to a regime of reporting and verification of their emissions goals.

Many of the details, particularly on the transparency provisions, still need to be set. Developing countries agreed that any project supported with outside aid should be subject to international measurement, reporting and verification—an important step. Countries such as China, however, will domestically fund many of their efforts, so at least as important are rules on the reporting of those carbon-curbing programs. The agreement states that they, along with aggregate national carbon inventories, will be domestically monitored but internationally reported on a set schedule, after which some kind of international review would follow. The establishment of this principle represents movement on China's part, though its impact will depend on future agreements, which must ensure that review is truly independent. Even then, these measures are weaker than those applied to developed countries. That disparity will have to change before funding really ramps up or before any international carbon market starts to operate on a large scale.

Some of the targets included, meanwhile, aren't adequate. A U.N. report leaked last week concluded that, taken together, pledged emissions cuts would almost certainly allow for warming far beyond 2 degrees Celsius, the threshold beyond which scientists say global warming could be disastrous. Governments must do better.

Then there is the obstructionism of a handful of countries such as Venezuela and Sudan, which prevented the agreement's formal adoption, a problem the U.N. negotiating structure may well have to work around again in the future.

Still, this outcome, however imperfect, should prod the U.S. Senate to take up climate-change legislation. Even if China hadn't moved, reducing America's dependence on foreign sources of energy and tackling domestic pollution are strong enough reasons to pass a bill. Vigorous debate should commence. Sens. John Kerry, D-Mass., Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., have released a framework for legislation similar to a cap-and-trade bill the House passed, which requires a lot of fixing. Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., have their own, much simpler bill that would rebate carbon auction revenue directly to taxpayers. It is appealing, and it warrants attention, too.

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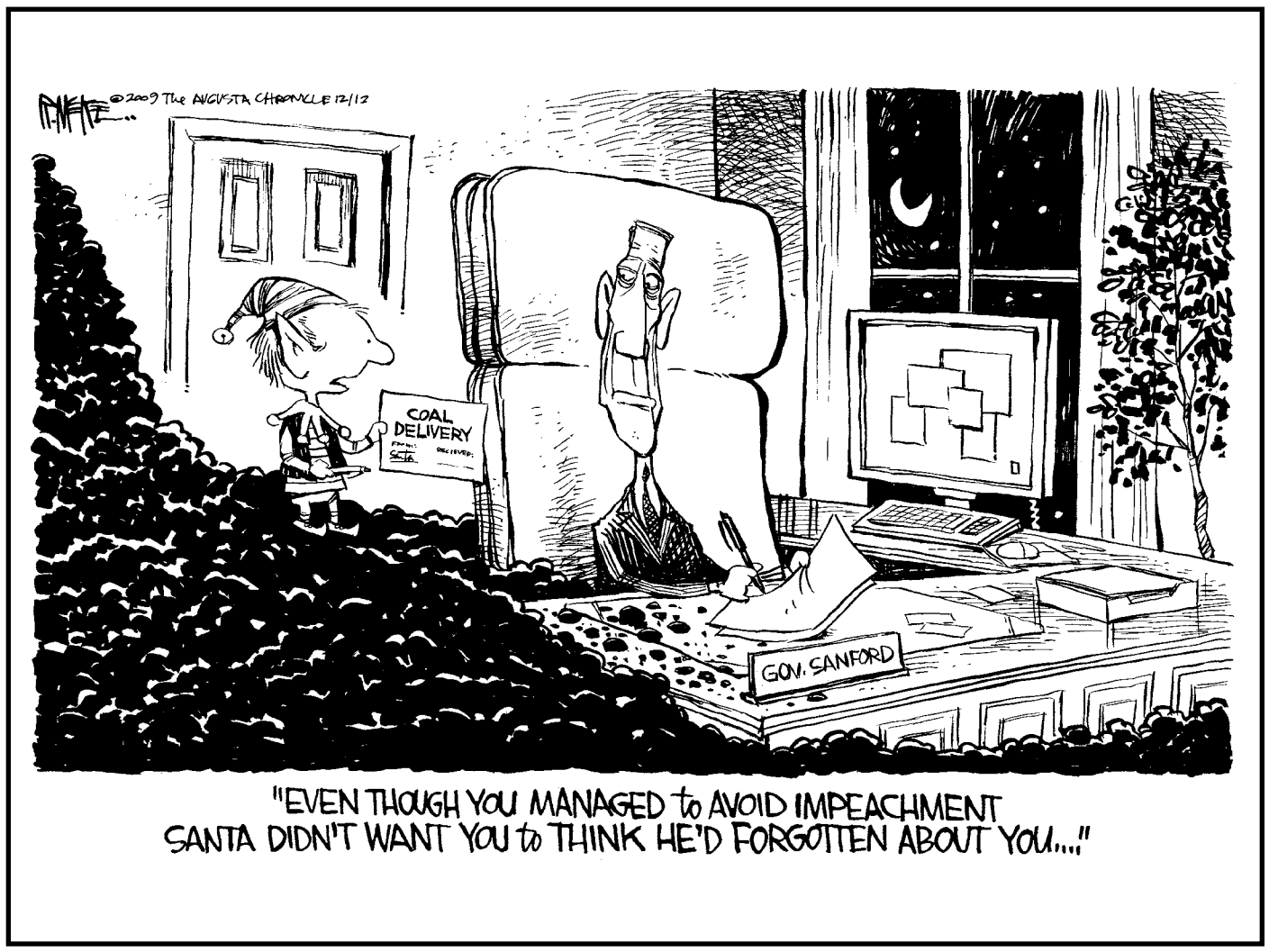

©2009 The Augusta Chronicle 12/12
COAL DELIVERY
GOV. SANFORD
"EVEN THOUGH YOU MANAGED to AVOID IMPEACHMENT SANTA DIDN'T WANT YOU to THINK HE'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU..."

# The climate conspiracy that isn't

By MICHAEL E. MANN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

I cannot condone some things that colleagues of mine wrote or requested in the e-mails recently stolen from a climate research unit at a British university. But the messages do not undermine the scientific case that human-caused climate change is real.

The hacked e-mails have been mined for words and phrases that can be distorted to misrepresent what the scientists were discussing. In a Dec. 9 op-ed, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin argued that "The e-mails reveal that leading climate `experts' ... manipulated data to `hide the decline' in global temperatures." Yet the e-mail she cites was written in 1999, just after the warmest year ever recorded (1998) to that date. It could not possibly have referred to the claim that global temperatures have declined over this decade—a claim that is false (the current decade, as has been recently reported, will go down as the warmest on record).

In one case, professor Phil Jones of the University of East Anglia refers to a "trick" regarding temperature data that he attributes to an article that co-authors and I published in the journal *Nature* in 1998. We showed one up-to-date temperature data set from thermometer measurements along with a longer data set, based on calculations from natural "proxy" records such as ice cores, corals and tree rings, that ended in 1980. The "trick" (by which scientists generally mean a clever solution, i.e., a "trick of the trade") was that the longer-term record could be viewed in the context of recent temperature measurements.

> *The scientific consensus regarding human-caused climate change is based on decades of work by thousands of scientists around the world. The National Academy of Sciences has concluded that the scientific case is clear. As world leaders work in Copenhagen to try to combat this problem, some critics are seeking to cloud the debate and confuse the public.*

There was nothing secret about this. Both temperature curves were clearly labeled in our *Nature* article, and anyone could download the data we plotted. The National Academy of Sciences reviewed this work in 2006 in a study reported by *The Washington Post* ("Past Few Decades Warmest on Record, Study Confirms," news story, June 23, 2006). Members of the peer-review panel said that they "saw nothing that spoke ... of any manipulation" and that the study was "an honest attempt to construct a data analysis procedure."

In the same e-mail, Jones uses the phrase "hide the decline" in reference to work by tree-ring expert Keith Briffa. Because tree-ring information has been found to correlate well with temperature readings, it is used to plot temperatures going back hundreds of years or more. Briffa described a phenomenon in which the density of wood exhibits an enigmatic decline in response to temperature after about 1960. This decline was the focus of Briffa's original article, and Briffa was clear that these data should not be used to represent temperatures after 1960. By saying "hide the decline," Jones meant that a diagram he was producing was not to show those data during the unreliable post-1960 period.

The conspiracy theories about the e-mails are fueled in part by their criticisms of the quality of two papers regarding global warming and a suggestion that at least one of the papers be kept out of an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report. As *Nature* noted in a recent editorial, neither the e-mail writers nor the IPCC suppressed any findings. Both papers were included in the IPCC's report. Some statements in the stolen e-mails reflect poor judgment—for example, a colleague referring to deleting e-mails that might be subject to a Freedom of Information Act request—but there is no evidence that this happened.

Palin wrote that Alaska's climate is changing but referred to "thawing permafrost and retreating sea ice" as "natural, cyclical environmental trends." In fact, such changes are among the effects scientists predicted would occur as greenhouse gas levels increase. Scientific evidence for the reality of human-caused climate change includes independently replicated data documenting the extent of warming; unprecedented melting of glaciers; rises in global sea levels; increasingly widespread continental drought; and models that predict all of these things but only when human impacts are included. Those same models project far more profound and potentially damaging impacts of climate change if we do not take action to stabilize greenhouse gas levels.

The scientific consensus regarding human-caused climate change is based on decades of work by thousands of scientists around the world. The National Academy of Sciences has concluded that the scientific case is clear. As world leaders work in Copenhagen to try to combat this problem, some critics are seeking to cloud the debate and confuse the public.

*Michael E. Mann, the author of* Dire Predictions: Understanding Global Warming, *is a professor in the meteorology department at Penn State University and director of the Penn State Earth System Science Center.*

**EDITORIAL POLICY** The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# More on parole

**IMMIGRATION FORUM**

**By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.*

In last week's column we talked about how to obtain advance parole to re-enter the CNMI after traveling to a foreign country. The procedures are somewhat different based on whether you are taking an emergency or a planned trip, and also whether you are applying from the CNMI prior to departure or if you are applying from abroad. Today, we will discuss two other types of parole: (1) the kind you need to travel to Guam or other parts of the United States and (2) the kind that grants temporary status for certain defined groups.

## Travel to Guam and other parts of the United States

If you are a foreigner residing in the CNMI and have a valid CNMI permit, you can request a parole to allow you to travel to Guam or other parts of the United States. After November 28, this is deemed "domestic travel" but if you are one of the large number of aliens who only have CNMI status, you will still need to obtain a parole document to enter Guam or other parts of the United States, and then re-enter the CNMI. You should do this even if you have a U.S. B1/B2 visa (issued to visitors for business or pleasure), so that when you return to the CNMI, you can resume the CNMI status you had before you left.

**ON THE NET**
- www.uscis.gov

To obtain this type of parole you need to make an Infopass appointment with the Saipan USCIS office and bring with you the following: (1) a letter explaining your need to travel; (2) a completed Form G-325 (biographical information); (3) a copy of your ticket, e-ticket, or itinerary; (4) copy of the picture page of your passport; (5) a copy of your CNMI entry permit and umbrella permit (if any).

There is no filing fee or charge to make this application. You can make an Infopass appointment either by visiting the Saipan USCIS office at TSL Plaza, Beach Road, Garapan, or on-line at www.uscis.gov. To make an appointment on line, go to the Home Page on the website and click on "Make an Appointment (Infopass)" listed under Customer Tools on the left hand sidebar of the home page. Follow the instructions on the following pages. Please remember, the CNMI is part of the United States of America, so enter the Saipan zip code (96950) when prompted. The Northern Mariana Islands is no longer listed on the pull-down menu for foreign countries. When asked to select what kind of services you need, select: "You need information and other services." Continue until you are asked for personal information, fill out the page and send. You will receive an appointment date and time by email.

To download Form G-325 (or any other USCIS form), go to www.uscis.gov. On the Home Page, select "FORMS" on the top horizontal bar. On the next page, click on "All Forms" on the left hand side bar. That will take you to a table listing all forms. Select "Biographic Information" (G-325) and click on the blue color text. This will take you to the next page where there is a brief description of the form. On the bottom of that page, click "Download G-325" and proceed. Alternatively you can stop by the Saipan USCIS office and pick up a form.

This type of parole may be granted for single or multiple entry, depending on your circumstances and the reason for the travel.

## Parole for selected CNMI foreign residents

This type of parole is not granted for travel purposes. Rather it is a grant of temporary status to specifically defined groups living in the CNMI, who may have no other path to legal status in the United States. The following groups are eligible for this type of parole: (1) CNMI permanent residents; (2) their immediate relatives; (3) surviving immediate relatives of deceased CNMI permanent residents; and (4) immediate relatives of citizens of the Freely Associated States (FAS), which are the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. To qualify as an immediate resident in the above classification you must be one of the following: (1) a legally recognized spouse (not a "common law spouse," even if you have an umbrella permit as one); (2) a natural child under the age of 18; (3) a child under the age of 18 who was adopted prior to the age of 18; (4) a stepchild under the age of 18 as long as the marriage that created the stepchild-step parent relationship occurred before the child's 18th birthday; (5) surviving spouse or child of a CNMI permanent resident.

Even if you qualify under one of the above categories, parole is not automatic. You must apply for it and it will be granted on a case-by-case basis. There is no charge for this type of parole. It is granted for a two-year period, and it is renewable. You will need to apply for the renewal. Neither the original grant for the parole nor the renewal is automatic. Your circumstances may have changed in a way that may affect your eligibility. You may have adjusted your status on some other basis, such as your U.S. citizen child reaching age 21 and applying for you to get a green card. In that event, you would no longer need parole. If you have committed certain types of crimes, you may no longer be eligible for parole. But if your circumstances have not changed, we are assured that in all likelihood your parole will be renewed.

Why should you apply for parole? If you fit into one of the categories described above, you probably have an IR entry permit and possibly an umbrella permit as well. Your IR entry permit expires on the date of the card; your umbrella permit expires on November 27, 2011. In either case, whenever your permit expires without renewal, or on November 27, 2011 at the latest, you will be out of status in the United States and therefore deportable. If you obtain parole, you can avoid this consequence and gain at least temporary, but renewable, status. We urge everyone in these categories, if they wish to remain in the CNMI, to apply for parole at least 90 days before their permit expiration date.

How do you apply for parole? You need to go down to the USCIS office in TSL Plaza, Beach Road, Garapan, and make an Infopass appointment. You can also do this on-line at www.uscis.gov. (See instructions above.) In preparation for your appointment, you will need the following:

- A request letter addressed to the Director, USCIS District 26, Honolulu, Hawaii. Such a letter should give your basic personal information, CNMI status, your personal situation in terms of family and employment, and the reasons why you need the parole document.
- Evidence of status as of November 28, 2009. A valid CNMI entry permit and or an Umbrella Permit will fulfill this requirement.
- Evidence of Residence in the CNMI at the time of your application. A rental agreement or notarized affidavit will fulfill this requirement.
- A completed Form G-325 (see above for instructions on how to obtain this form).
- Four recent passport style photographs;
- A valid identity document such as a passport, driver's license, Mayors Identity Card together with a certified copy of your birth certificate. If your birth certificate is in a language other than English, you will need a certified English translation.

There is no charge for this parole document. However if you wish to travel to a foreign country, you will need to submit a Form I-131 together with a filing fee of $305. If you do not have an umbrella permit or other valid CNMI or U.S. issued permit, and you wish to apply for authorization to work in the CNMI, you will need to submit a Form I-765 together with a filing fee of $340. Requests to travel to Guam or the United States do not require a filing fee and must be made as described above.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

*The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the* Saipan Tribune *at editor@saipantribune.com.*

# Unsung heroes who risked everything to fight repression

**By TRUDY RUBIN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

*Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the* Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

In this Christmas season, I want to pay tribute to two unsung heroes who stood up to repressive regimes—and paid with their lives.

One was Iranian, one Russian, and I doubt you've heard of either. Yet they represent many other lonely heroes around the globe who have held on to their values in the face of government repression, even though they knew it might cost them their freedom—or their very existence. Just as every country honors its unknown fallen soldiers, we should honor those who died in solitude and pain for upholding universal principles of human rights.

One such hero was Ramin Pourandarjani, a 26-year-old doctor who was working at Iran's infamous Kahrizak detention facility as part of his military service. Kahrizak held many of the 4,000 demonstrators arrested for protesting Iran's rigged June presidential elections. The prison became so notorious for beatings, torture, rapes, and killings of detainees that the regime had to close it, while continuing to deny the crimes that were committed there.

Those who spoke out about the torture at Kahrizak were themselves threatened. The truth embarrassed an Iranian regime whose leaders present themselves as arbiters of global "justice."

Pourandarjani had seen the badly beaten son of a prominent conservative political figure, and, when the youth died, was forced to list the cause of death as "meningitis." The young doctor chose to expose the situation by speaking about what he'd seen to an Iranian parliamentary committee. But he rightly feared for his safety.

When the doctor's body was found on Nov. 10 at Kahrizak, Iranian officials first claimed that he'd been in a car crash, then said he'd had a heart attack, and then insisted he'd killed himself. Now there are reports that he was poisoned.

Pourandarjani knew that Iran's Revolutionary Guards had turned the country into a virtual military state and were killing those who opposed their behavior. Yet he bore witness to the horrors he'd seen.

Another such hero was a 37-year-old Russian tax lawyer, Sergei Magnitsky. He'd been in prison for nearly a year before he died, awaiting trial on trumped-up tax-evasion charges. His real offense, it appears, was helping to uncover evidence that implicated Interior Ministry officials in the embezzlement of more than $230 million from the state.

When Magnitsky became deathly ill and was in excruciating pain, prison officials denied him treatment and kept making conditions worse for him in an effort to force him to incriminate a client. In the weeks before his death, Magnitsky kept pages of meticulous notes about hellish prison conditions. But he never gave in to his jailers' demands.

After Magnitsky's death, his notes reached the Russian media and caused a stir—perhaps because they provided evidence that the practices of the Soviet gulag continue. But this young lawyer died alone and in pain, as have many murdered Russian journalists and human-rights workers whose killers remain uncaught by an indifferent or complicit government. Magnitsky, like the others, died for doing work he believed in.

Pourandarjani and Magnitsky belong to a long line of individuals who struggle for justice privately and against great odds in countries such as Iran, Russia, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, and North Korea, and in much of the Middle East.

In his Nobel Prize speech, President Obama—who has sometimes seemed conflicted about espousing human rights—made an important point: "For some countries," he said, "the failure to uphold human rights is excused by the false suggestion that these are somehow Western principles, foreign to local cultures or stages of a nation's development." Obama rejected that distinction as false.

The president cited "aspirations that are universal," such as the right to speak freely, worship as one pleases, assemble without fear, and choose one's own leaders. I would add to that the human right that Pourandarjani and Magnitsky died for: the right to speak out against injustices perpetrated by unjust rulers. This is a universal right that cuts across cultures and religions, and it is recognized within Iran and Russia (even if their governments deny it). That is why these two men are heroes for us all.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲85° ▼77° | ▲84° ▼76° | ▲84° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼77° | ▲86° ▼77° |

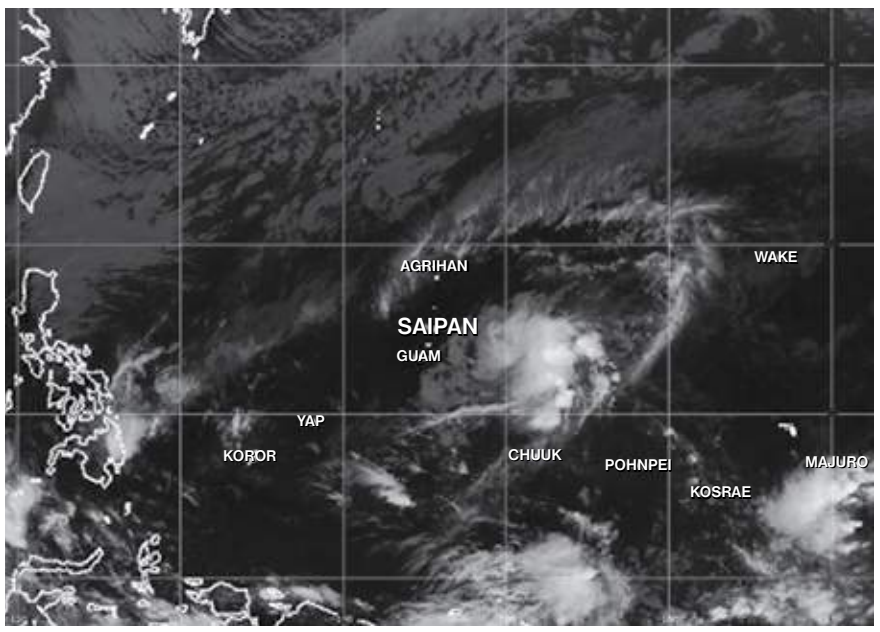
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Palau | Partly Sunny | ▲88 | ▼78 |
| Yap | Partly Sunny | ▲85 | ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | ▲88 | ▼77 |
| Pohnpei | Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼78 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲87 | ▼77 |
| Majuro | Rain | ▲84 | ▼77 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Sunny | ▲68 | ▼57 |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | ▲41 | ▼23 |
| Hong Kong | Cloudy | ▲64 | ▼57 |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | ▲79 | ▼67 |
| London | Partly Sunny | ▲37 | ▼34 |
| Los Angeles | Mostly Cloudy | ▲64 | ▼45 |
| Manila | Partly Sunny | ▲84 | ▼73 |
| Melbourne | Partly Sunny | ▲77 | ▼58 |
| Miami | Partly Sunny | ▲75 | ▼63 |
| New York | Partly Sunny | ▲33 | ▼25 |
| Osaka | Partly Sunny | ▲49 | ▼38 |
| Paris | Rain | ▲38 | ▼32 |
| Pusan | Mostly Sunny | ▲50 | ▼36 |
| Rome | Rain | ▲57 | ▼55 |
| Salem | Showers | ▲44 | ▼30 |
| San Francisco | Cloudy | ▲56 | ▼36 |
| Seoul | Rain/Snow | ▲37 | ▼32 |
| Tokyo | Mostly Sunny | ▲50 | ▼36 |
| Washington, DC | Partly Sunny | ▲38 | ▼25 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends from Mindanao across 10N130E northeastward across the far Northern Mariana Islands to near Minami Tori Shima at 23N155E then eastward to beyond 25N175E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found from Pagan northward along and up to 300 miles north of the shear line. A surface trough east of Guam extends from 15N151E to 10N153E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of the trough. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-northeastward from 2N130E to a circulation between Chuuk and Pohnpei at 8N156E then southeastward to end south of Majuro in another circulation near 4N171E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are southeast of Yap within 50 miles of a line from 6N143E to 4N144E and near the equator south of a line from 2N148E to 2N156E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the southern Marshall Islands and near Tarawa are between the equator and 7N from 167E to 180.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5:00 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.1 Feet |
| 12:07 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 6:15 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.1 Feet |
| 10:32 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.5 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:39 AM | 5:52 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:39 AM | 5:53 PM |
| Thursday | 6:40 AM | 5:53 PM |
| Friday | 6:40 AM | 5:54 PM |
| Saturday | 6:41 AM | 5:54 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 10:29 AM | 10:32 PM |
| Wednesday | 11:03 AM | 11:19 PM |
| Thursday | 11:38 AM | |
| Friday | 12:14 AM | 12:06 PM |
| Saturday | 12:52 AM | 12:55 PM |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 22, 2009

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 11:30am | 12:05pm | 1, 7 |

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 12:40pm | 1:10pm | 1, 7 |

**SAIPAN-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | Daily |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | Daily |
| C09597 | 11:30am | 1:10pm | 1, 7 via ROP |
| C09601 | 12:20pm | 1:10pm | 4, 5 |
| C09603 | 3:15pm | 4:05pm | Daily |
| C09605 | 6:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily |
| C09599 | 9:20pm | 10:10pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW287 | 6:00am | 7:30pm | Daily via NRT |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW287 | 6:00am | 8:40am | Daily |
| NW297 | 4:45pm | 7:30pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ604 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 11:25am | Daily via Osaka |
| | | Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am | |
| OZ606 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3008 | 3:30am | 6:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/701 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/701 | 2:40am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ604/703 | 2:50am | 11:25am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ608/705 | 3:20am | 1:30am+1 | 1, 5 via PUS |
| C09603/933 | 3:15pm | 9:40pm | Daily via GUM |
| C09605/933 | 6:20pm | 9:40pm | Daily via GUM |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:20pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ606/749 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 4, 6, 7 via ICN |

### ARRIVALS

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 3:10am | 3:45am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 1:20pm | 1:55pm | 6 |

**GUAM-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 2:00am | 2:30am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 12:40pm | 6 |

**GUAM-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09316 | 2:00am | 2:50am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 |
| C09598 | 2:00am | 3:45am | 5, 6 via ROP |
| C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 1:55pm | 6 via ROP |
| C09602 | 1:50pm | 2:40pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09604 | 4:50pm | 5:40pm | Daily |
| C09606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |

**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW288 | 12:05pm | 1:20am+1 | Daily via NRT |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW298 | 10:05am | 2:50pm | Daily |
| NW288 | 8:45pm | 1:20am+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:10am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ605 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily via Osaka |
| | | Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm | |
| OZ603 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ603 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3007 | 7:30pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ716/605 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 4 via ICN |
| OZ706/607 | 3:35am | 2:10am+1 | 4, 7 via PUS |
| OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR110/C09596 | 10:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |
| C0934/9596 | 11:10pm | 7:50am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| OZ704/605 | 11:55pm | 2:20pm+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN |

**HONG KONG-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ724/605 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 2,4,6,7 via ICN |
| OZ750/605 | 1:00am | 2:20pm | 2,4,6,7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

# CNMI's JROTC program excels in US Army inspection

The CNMI JROTC Multiple School Unit Directorate and all five CNMI high school JROTC programs passed the Cadet Command Formal Assessment on Dec. 14 – Dec. 18 with flying colors, according to retired LTC Bob Gay, director of Army Instruction, JROTC, for the CNMI Multiple School Unit. He said all five CNMI high schools aced the test, scoring from 95 to 98 percent on the assessment.

The formal assessment, much like accreditation, occurs every third year. CNMI JROTC received their last formal inspection in 2006. The inspection assesses all command, operational and logistical systems.

The 8th Brigade Cadet Command from Fort Lewis, Washington served as the inspecting agency, with Maj. Mark Pratt and Sgt. First Class Chris Baroldy as the primary inspectors. They were augmented by Lt. Col. John Howerton, professor of Military Science, University of Guam, SROTC Program.

The cadets began preparing in earnest for this grueling task last summer, Gay said.

"We specifically tailored our Summer Advanced Leadership Course consisting of this year's top cadet leaders from each high school, to focus on the areas they would need to excel on for the inspection," he added.

The inspection looked at the following operational systems: staff briefing, academic curriculum knowledge, in-ranks inspection, general cadet knowledge, color guard, platoon drill, all staff functions to include personnel, operations, supply, logistics, security, public affairs and service learning.

There were a total of 1,000 possible points. Each of the CNMI high schools had already earned a perfect 400 of 400 on the Unit Reports they submitted in June this year. The Unit Report contains all of the accomplished tasks that each school had executed during the course of an academic year. They must meet very strict criteria to gain a perfect score. The 600 remaining points comes from the on-the-ground inspection.

Marianas High School scored the highest rating, earning a score of 98.8 percent.

Kagman High School, on the other hand, scored its very first gold star, equivalent to a 96 percent or higher rating. They also had a perfect 100 on their staff briefing—one of only two schools in the entire Western Region of the United States to achieve that honor. They also received distinction for having the best Public Affairs and Service Learning Briefs.

Tinian High School showed the most improvement, scoring 30 points higher than they did in 2006. "That is a tremendous accomplishment as their Senior Army Instructor arrived just two and a half months ago," said Gay.

Saipan Southern High School scored over 98 percent. "This is the second consecutive formal inspection that SSHS JROTC scored in excess of 98 percent," Gay said.

Rota High School scored over 97 percent and showed the most balance among the many operating systems. They also received recognition for the most impressive physical preparation and layout of all their inspected areas.

The instructors and the principals also were assessed in the roles they play in support of their programs.

The DAI Directorate, under the leadership of Gay and SFC Damian, received a rating of 98 percent. They were inspected in the total management of the JROTC Program that involved a look at over 100 functional areas. Some of the areas assessed included personnel management, equal opportunity, operations, training, professional development, instructor certification, federal contracts, federal budget, performance counseling, hiring actions, class assessment, school support, public affairs, leadership camps, automation, supply administration, inventories, property accountability, equipment requisition, asset reporting, supply storage and distribution, document register and internal controls.

The 8th Brigade inspectors adjudged the CNMI JROTC Program as one of the best in the Western Region, said Gay.

"The hard work of all the cadre, students, teachers, PSS leadership, and volunteers paid off. This was a total team effort in terms of preparing for this arduous inspection. Teamwork allowed the programs to achieve at the highest level," he said. "I am proud of all of our schools, cadets and instructors. I am especially proud of the cadre and the cadets who provided assistance to their sister schools. Teamwork and selfless service are two life skills we teach and emulate." ***(PR)***

Saipan Southern High School cadet battalion commander LTC Ruby Reyes, her staff, principal Craig Garrison and JROTC instructors CSM Rabago, SGM Kiyoshi and MSG Salas and lead inspector Maj. Mark Pratt.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kagman High School cadet battalion commander LTC Jhumilyn Esposo, Senior Army Instructor MSG Jim Burke, Army instructor SFC Anthony Lukeala, principal Alfred Ada, and LTC Bob Gay, director of Army Instruction CNMI.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 12 Birthday to Alyka Mae M. Agbanglog! Best wishes and may the Lord continue to bless you on your special day! We love you very much. Coming out from you Mommy Lolit, Daddy Ike and your Agbanlog family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Pia "Helene" Sablan Ngewakl! Hope you have a wonderful day and may the Lord continue to bless you today and always! Greeting come from your loving family and your brother Nolan "Tsuneo" S. Ngewakl!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Tyrell "John" Tutii Ngewakl! May the Lord continue to bless you today and always and may all your wishes come true! Greetings come from your loving family!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, December 23, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

**AGENDA**

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (October 9 & 16, 2009)

**II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS**
1. Vanderlande Contract re: Baggage Handling System
2. Recommendation of the Personnel Committee

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors
December 21, 2009

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**MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST**
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a Trustees Special Meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 22, 2009 beginning at 9:00 AM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite #107, Morgen Building; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

**I PRELIMINARIES**
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Public Comments

**II NEW BUSINESS**
- BOS Home Loan Policy Review & Action

**III COMMUNICATIONS**
**IV MISCELLANEOUS**
**V ADJOURNMENT**

*At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.*

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman

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## *Saipan Cockfight Board*

*Municipality of Saipan*
*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, subsection 9910, Mayor Juan B. Tudela, through the Municipality of Saipan, hereby gives notice that the Saipan Cockfight Board will hold its regular meeting on Monday, December 28, 2009, at 5:30 p. m. at the Marianas Cockfight Dome in As Gonno, Saipan:

**I. Preliminary Matters**
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

**II. Public Comments**

**III. New Business**
1. Protest filed by Mr. Maximo Mogar and Frank Castro

**IV. Executive Session**

**V. Miscellaneous**
- a. Announcements
- b. Next meeting
- c. Adjournment

# Business

## Snowstorm cuts into sales, may mean stronger week

By EMILY FREDRIX
AP RETAIL WRITER

AP

In this photo made Saturday, Dec. 19, 2009, Steve Barrera, of Chicago, gets in some last minute holiday shopping at a Sears store in Chicago.

The snowstorm that blanketed the East Coast, closing malls and snowing in shoppers, spelled trouble for retailers, but elsewhere in the country stores saw a strong turnout on the last weekend before Christmas.

Eager to win business from snowed-in easterners, retail Web sites including Macy's and J.C. Penney offered free express shipping Sunday. Traffic to retail Web sites spiked all weekend. Elsewhere in the country, crowds looking for discounts found some, but far less than the 60 to 70 percent off sales they wanted.

Retailers head into the home stretch hoping the storm leaves pent-up demand that will give them one last gift.

A snowstorm the Saturday before Christmas, often the busiest shopping day of the year, is about as bad as it gets for retailers, said Marshal Cohen, chief retail industry analyst at market researcher NPD Group. But there's still time and consumers are ready when they dig out of the storm.

"They'll hit the stores with a little more of a method to their madness, so all is not lost," Cohen said.

"Super Saturday" usually accounts for $15 billion worth of sales nationwide, according to Scott Bernhardt of weather research firm Planalytics. Stores missed that number this year, but Bernhardt still wasn't sure by how much.

Retailers were still totaling the impact of the snowstorm Sunday. The first figures for the weekend are due from Shopper-Trak on Tuesday.

Bernhardt said it's not yet clear how many stores closed, though many did around the Washington, D.C., region, which got more than 25 inches of snow, and in New Jersey. Chains with a large share of their stores in areas affected by bad weather include Bon-Ton Stores, Dick's Sporting Goods and Christopher & Banks, he said.

## NYC's flagship Macy's store reopens after fire

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Hundreds of holiday shoppers were evacuated from the flagship Macy's store at Herald Square on Sunday after a fire in an escalator spread smoke through the building. No injuries were immediately reported.

The fire occurred in an escalator between the third and fourth floors, said Elina Kazan, a Macy's spokeswoman. The sirens of numerous police and fire trucks on 34th Street blared long after the fire was reported at 4 p.m. on one of the busiest shopping days of the year. The smoke was so heavy at one point that passers-by on the street could smell it.

Outside the building, a police officer announced to prospective customers after 5 p.m. that Macy's had closed. It reopened within an hour and will remain open until midnight, Kazan said. When it reopens at 7 a.m. Monday, it will remain open 24 hours a day until 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, she added.

Mary-Jo Sedenquist of Green Bay, Wis., was visiting the city on a church mission trip. She went to Macy's looking for Christmas gifts Sunday and smelled smoke as she entered the store.

About 15 minutes later, she said, smoke alarms went off and an announcement was made that an evacuation was under way.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Shipping giants rush to deliver holiday packages

**LOUISVILLE, Ky.** (AP)—Mellany Sorrell's face glistened with sweat as she lifted packages and seemed in constant motion during the holiday rush at the epicenter of UPS' global air shipping network. The 29-year-old methodically hoisted boxes and put them gingerly onto a conveyor belt—keeping them on a synchronized journey that could end under countless Christmas trees. After emptying a hulking container so big that she could step inside it, Sorrell caught her breath before starting again with another container stuffed with boxes. Each container holds up to 6 tons of cargo. The holiday shipping rush is expected to peak for UPS on Monday, when the world's largest shipping carrier projects it will deliver about 22 million small packages. For the entire holiday season, UPS plans to deliver roughly 400 million packages worldwide, up slightly from the 2008 holiday season.

#### Eurostar train services canceled indefinitely

**LONDON** (AP)—The only passenger rail link between Britain and the rest of Europe has been shut down indefinitely, Eurostar said Sunday, promising more travel misery for thousands of stranded passengers just before Christmas. Services have been suspended since late Friday, when a series of glitches stranded five trains inside the Channel Tunnel and trapped more than 2,000 passengers for hours in stuffy and claustrophobic conditions. More than 55,000 passengers overall have been affected. Some panicked passengers stayed underground for more than 15 hours without food or water, or any clear idea of what was going on—prompting outrage from travelers and a promise from Eurostar that no passenger train would enter the tunnel until the issue had been identified and fixed.

#### Spyker Cars renews bid to buy Saab from GM

STOCKHOLM (AP)—In a final attempt to rescue Saab Automobile AB, Dutch auto maker Spyker Cars on Sunday submitted a new offer to buy the Swedish brand from General Motors Co. Spyker said it has submitted a new 11-point proposal to GM, addressing the issues that made talks collapse earlier this week. GM on Friday said it would wind down Saab because issues arose during the sales talks with Spyker that could not be resolved, and the window of time to complete a deal was small. Spyker Chief Executive Officer Victor R. Muller said he hoped the new offer would make GM change its mind.

# Nation

## Health care bill faces key Senate test vote

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Senate Democrats confidently advanced heath care legislation Sunday toward a make-or-break test vote in a push for Christmas-week passage. Republicans vowed to resist what they appeared unable to stop.

In the run-up to the vote, the escalation in rhetoric was remarkable on both sides of an issue that has divided the two political parties for months.

"This process is not legislation. This process is corruption," said Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., referring to the last-minute flurry of dealmaking that enabled Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and the White House to lock in the 60 votes needed to approve the legislation.

Coburn

Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island responded in near-Biblical terms. In a speech on the Senate floor, he said Republicans are embarked on a "no-holds barred mission of propaganda, obstruction and fear. ... There will be a reckoning. There will come a day of judgment about who was telling the truth."

Whatever else it was, the legislation represented the culmination of a year's work for Democrats, pressed by President Barack Obama to remake the nation's health care system.

Under Senate rules, Democrats needed 60 votes on three separate occasions to pass the measure. The first and most critical test was set for about 1 a.m. Monday. Democrats said Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson's announcement Saturday that he would vote for the bill gave them the support they needed.

## Maine to consider cell phone cancer warning

**AUGUSTA, Maine** (AP)—A Maine legislator wants to make the state the first to require cell phones to carry warnings that they can cause brain cancer, although there is no consensus among scientists that they do and industry leaders dispute the claim.

The now-ubiquitous devices carry such warnings in some countries, though no U.S. states require them, according to the National Conference of State Legislators. A similar effort is afoot in San Francisco, where Mayor Gavin Newsom wants his city to be the nation's first to require the warnings.

Maine Rep. Andrea Boland, D-Sanford, said numerous studies point to the cancer risk, and she has persuaded legislative leaders to allow her proposal to come up for discussion during the 2010 session that begins in January, a session usually reserved for emergency and governors' bills.

## Storm crawls into New England, leaving mess behind

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** (AP)—A fierce weekend storm that dropped record snowfall and stranded travelers up the coast from Virginia to New England turned out not to be as naughty as many had feared by Sunday—and its nicest accomplishment may simply be leaving many with the prospect of a very white Christmas.

Residents throughout the mid-Atlantic and Northeast mostly holed up for the weekend, then dug out from as much as 2 feet of snow to find sunny, mostly calm skies under a blanket of white unspoiled by car exhaust and passers-by.

Matthew Laquinta was vindicated by the 15 inches of snow outside the Providence home he shares with daughter Emma, 7, who didn't believe the night before that the weather might keep them from visiting relatives on Sunday.

"I was like, 'Come on, where's the snow?'" Emma said. "And I didn't think there'd be any."

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Judge mulls pivotal issues in Kan. abortion trial

**WICHITA, Kan.** (AP)—A judge is weighing a critical legal question in the case of a man who confessed to killing one of the nation's few late-term abortion providers: Can the man claim at his trial that the slaying was justified to save the lives of unborn children? Scott Roeder, a 51-year-old Kansas City, Mo., man, is charged with one count of premeditated, first-degree murder in Dr. George Tiller's death and two counts of aggravated assault for allegedly threatening two ushers during the May 31 melee in the foyer of the doctor's Wichita church. District Judge Warren Wilbert has yet to rule on a bevy of court filings that will set the course for the Jan. 11 trial, and will consider some of them in court Tuesday. But the documents offer a glimpse at the unfolding legal strategies in a case played out amid the rancorous debate over abortion.

#### Loophole lets mentally ill Texas juveniles go free

**TYLER, Texas** (AP)—A 16-year-old former juvenile detainee is accused of stabbing a high school teacher to death with a butcher knife. Another teen was convicted of killing a roofer during a 30-minute robbery spree. Both were released by the Texas Youth Commission because the agency wasn't equipped to treat their mental illnesses and had to let them go under the law. The cases highlight what some juvenile justice experts say is a loophole in the way Texas treats underage offenders with severe psychiatric issues. Data obtained by The Associated Press reveal that the commission has released more than 200 offenders because of mental health issues in the last five years and that more than one-fifth went on to commit new crimes, some of them violent.

#### Evangelical church opens doors fully to gays

**DENVER** (AP)—The auditorium lights turned low, the service begins with the familiar rhythms of church: children singing, hugs and handshakes of greeting, a plea for donations to fix the boiler. Then the 55-year-old pastor with spiked gray hair and blue jeans launches into his weekly welcome, a poem-like litany that includes the line "queer or straight here, there's no hate here." The Rev. Mark Tidd initially used the word "gay." But he changed it to "queer" because it's the preferred term of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people invited to participate fully at Highlands Church.

# Asia

## RP volcano gets louder, could blow up soon

AP

Lava continues to flow down the slopes of the Mayon volcano, seen from Legazpi city in Albay province, 500 kilometers (311 miles) southeast of Manila, Philippines, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009.

**LEGAZPI, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippines' Mayon volcano turned up the heat with lava fountains and loud rumbling sounds Monday, and officials said it was getting closer to a major eruption that could come at any time.

Tens of thousands of villagers have been evacuated from the foothills as a precaution, but authorities are having trouble keeping them away from their homes and farms, said Gov. Joey Salceda of Albay province, about 210 miles (340 kilometers) southeast of Manila.

"There are people who have been evacuated three times and we sigh: 'You again?' " Salceda said. "We've been playing cat and mouse with them."

After a week of puffing out ash and sending bursts of lava trickling down its steep slopes, the 8,070-foot (2,460-meter) mountain overlooking the Gulf of Albay and Legazpi city in the central Philippines switched into high gear Monday with nearly 2,000 volcanic earthquakes and tremors since Sunday, state volcanologists said.

The emission of sulfur dioxide - an indication of magma rising inside the volcano - jumped to 6,000 tons per day from the normal 500, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. It also reported "audible booming and rumbling sounds" in the eastern flank of the volcano, accompanied by intensified crater glow at night.

Lava fountains bursting from the cone-shaped volcano overnight rose 650 feet (200 meters) in the air, the institute said.

## Myanmar state press says no charter change for now

**YANGON, Myanmar** (AP)—Myanmar's new constitution, adopted last year despite criticism it is undemocratic, cannot be changed before next year's planned elections, the country's state media said in a commentary Sunday.

The article, which appeared Sunday in the New Light of Myanmar and other newspapers, appeared to be warning the National League for Democracy party of detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi that its complaints will not be heeded.

The party has not yet committed itself to taking part in the polls because it claims the new charter is unfair. It is seeking a dialogue with the military government.

Commentaries in state-run media normally reflect the view of the military government, or sometimes take more extreme positions to test public and international reaction without the regime officially committing itself.

## China: Climate talks yielded 'positive' results

**BEIJING** (AP)—China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, lauded Sunday the outcome of a historic U.N. climate conference that ended with a nonbinding agreement that urges major polluters to make deeper emissions cuts—but does not require it.

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said the international climate talks that brought more than 110 leaders together in Copenhagen produced "significant and positive" results.

The Obama administration on Sunday also defended the agreement as a "great step forward"—despite widespread disappointment among environmentalists that the pact does not include mandatory targets that would draw sanctions.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Despite aid, hunger still stalks Afghan children

**AQCHA, Afghanistan** (AP)—While international forces in Afghanistan battle militants hiding in the mountains, aid agencies are fighting an even more elusive enemy: malnutrition. The World Food Program and UNICEF have launched a project to feed thousands of mothers and children—some too weak to cry. Aid workers hope a high-protein diet distributed through a network of village clinics can help them through the winter. Despite the billions spent in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion to oust the Taliban, the country is still comparable to the worst humanitarian crisis zones in Africa. Afghanistan has the world's highest maternal mortality rate and the second-highest child mortality rate—and hunger is a major reason why, the United Nations says. This year, centers across the country will feed 100,000 children and 35,000 pregnant or breast-feeding women.

#### 21 militants killed in Afghan operations

**KABUL (**AP)—The Afghan Defense Ministry says 21 militants have been killed in three separate operations in the Central Asian country's fight to combat the resurgent Taliban. The ministry said in a statement that attacks by Afghan and NATO forces on Sunday killed eight insurgents in southern Helmand province and six in eastern Ghazni province. Afghan forces also killed seven militants in northern Kunduz province on Sunday. The north has become more violent in recent months as the Taliban and other militant groups have expanded their targets beyond the turbulent south and east.

# World

## Polish police retrieve damaged Auschwitz gate sign

**WARSAW, Poland** (AP)—Polish police found the infamous "Arbeit Macht Frei" sign that was stolen from the gate of the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz after an intensive three-day hunt and arrested five suspects, police said early Monday. The sign was found cut into three pieces.

Police spokeswoman Katarzyna Padlo told The Associated Press that the sign was found Sunday night in northern Poland, the other end of the country from the southern Polish town where the Auschwitz memorial museum is located and where it disappeared before dawn Friday.

Padlo said police detained five men between the ages of 25 and 39 and took them for questioning to Krakow, which is the regional command of the area that includes the Auschwitz museum.

Another police spokesman, Dariusz Nowak, said the 16-foot (5-meter) sign, made of hollow steel, was found cut into three pieces, each containing one of the words. The cruelly ironic phrase means "Work Sets You Free" and ran completely counter to the purpose of Auschwitz, which began as a concentration camp for political prisoners during the Nazi occupation of Poland and evolved into an extermination camp where Jews were gassed to death in factory-like fashion.

## Mullen worries about Iran running out clock on US

**ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT** (AP)—The top U.S. military officer said Sunday he does not assume Iran's brief seizure of an Iraqi oil well is part of an orchestrated plan in Tehran to threaten its neighbors.

Adm. Mike Mullen also said he's worried about "the clock now running" on the Obama administration's efforts at trying to keep the lines of communication open with Iran. The administration had given a rough deadline of the end of 2009 for Iran to respond to an offer of engagement and show that it would allay world concerns about its nuclear program.

Mullen

Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, supports that offer, and has said any military strike on Iran, whether by Israel or the United States, should be a last resort.

The U.S. and others worry that Iran's program is intended to develop nuclear weapon. Iran says its work is peaceful and designed to generate electricity but has defied international demands to prove it is not trying to build an atomic bomb.

The administration is now beginning a push to get international support for additional penalties against Iran as a result, and Mullen suggested he thinks that backing was there.

"I think signals are very clearly in the air that another set of sanctions, another resolution, that that's coming," he said.

"I grow increasingly concerned that the Iranians have been nonresponsive. I've said for a long time we don't need another conflict in that part of the world," he said. "I'm not predicting that would happen, but I think they've got to get to a position where they are a constructive force and not a destabilizing force."

The administration is concerned about Iran's refusal to carry through on a tentative deal struck in October that called for Iran to ship the majority of its low-enriched uranium out of the country in exchange for fuel to run a research reactor.

The deal was seen by the U.S. and its negotiating partners as a step toward building confidence in Iran's claim that its nuclear program is designed entirely to generate power, not weapons.

The administration also stepped up the momentum toward sanctions after the revelation in September that Iran was secretly building a second uranium-enrichment facility near the holy city of Qom.

Mullen, who spoke to reporters while flying from Germany back to the U.S., said the oil well incident adds to his concerns about Iran's intentions toward neighboring Iraq and the rest of the world.

## Brazil man stuck stepson with needles as revenge

**RIO DE JANEIRO** (AP)—A Brazilian man publicly confessed to pushing dozens of needles into his 2-year-old stepson, saying Sunday in a jail cell interview that he intended to kill the boy out of spite for his wife and didn't think he would be discovered.

Speaking to Globo television's "Fantastico" program from the northeastern state of Bahia, 30-year-old bricklayer Roberto Carlos Magalhaes described mixing water with wine to dope the child before he and his lover held the boy down and stuck sewing needles into him.

"I did this two or three times a week during one month," Magalhaes said.

The boy was too drunk on the wine mixture to cry while he inserted the needles, he said, but felt the pain after the alcohol wore off.

"It was truly an unbearable suffering," said Magalhaes. "It was to get back at the boy's mother. I thought the needles would work their way through his body and kill the boy. It was a way to kill without anyone discovering."

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Astronauts blast off for Christmas space mission

**BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan** (AP)—A Russian rocket blasted off from a cosmodrome in Kazakhstan lighting up the frigid Central Asian steppe Monday, shuttling an American, a Russian and a Japanese to the International Space Station. Standing in the early morning cold, the astronauts' family and friends watched as the Soyuz craft soared atop a tower of bright orange flames. The Soyuz TMA-17's three astronauts will take the orbiting laboratory's permanent crew to five following the early-hours launch, the first-ever blastoff of a Soyuz rocket on a winter night. Timothy J. Creamer, Soichi Noguchi and Oleg Kotov are to join current inhabitants, American Jeff Williams and Russian Maxim Surayev, who have been alone on the space station for three weeks.

#### Dutch teen sailor found in Caribbean

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands** (AP)—Police confirmed Sunday they have tracked down 14-year-old Dutch sailor Laura Dekker in the Caribbean territory of St. Maarten, days after she ran away from home leaving her boat behind. Dekker made headlines around the world earlier this year when she unsuccessfully went to court as a 13-year-old to fight for the right to set off on a single-handed circumnavigation of the world in her boat, Guppy. St. Maarten police spokesman Ricardo Henson confirmed that Dekker was on the island Sunday evening, and said efforts are under way to get her back to the Netherlands. He declined to provide further details.

# Focus

AP

In this five-combo file photo released by Sargodha Police Department on Friday, Dec. 11, 2009, arrested American Muslims, from left, Waqar Hussain, Ramy Zamzam, Umar Farooq, Ahmad Minni, Aman Yemer are seen in Sargodha, Pakistan.

*Just about anyone on the Internet can connect with terrorists and even young Muslims from moderate families can get caught up in what some call 'Jihadi cool.'*

## Did 'Jihadi cool' lure 5 Americans to Pakistan?

By MARTHA IRVINE and NAFEESA SYEED
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

AP

In this Dec. 14, 2009 file photo, a Pakistani police officer shows a copy of book allegedly found in a luggage of arrested American Muslims in Karachi, Pakistan.

**ALEXANDRIA, Virginia** (AP)— There was a book left in a Pakistani hotel room where five young men from Virginia were arrested on suspicion of trying to join Taliban forces. Called "The Pact," that book tells the true story of three boys from a rough neighborhood and broken homes who bond and eventually help one another through medical and dental school.

"This is a story about the power of friendship. Of joining forces and beating the odds," reads one snippet on the back of the book.

It is also a story with a happy ending.

But the saga of these five young men from suburban homes in Virginia—friends who grew up together and attended the same small neighborhood mosque—has been anything but happy, quickly turning from one of promise to despair for many of the family members and friends they left behind.

There is sadness in their tight-knit Muslim community, and anger. These were young men who grew up with modest means, still living in small homes and apartments with their families, but who, in at least some cases, seemed as though they were on track to achieve good things.

Some of the young men, who range in age from late teens to early 20s, have been described by friends and neighbors as polite, quiet, even kind. They went to public schools. Some were athletes.

Right up to the time they disappeared a few weeks ago, they regularly attended prayer services at the mosque. Then two or three of them would head to a nearby gym five days a week, "like clockwork," a gym manager says.

At least two of them were in college. Umar Farooq—whose family ran a computer business and whose home has a small nameplate on it that says "geek," a slang American term for a somewhat offbeat scholar—was a business major at George Mason University. Another of the five, the soft-spoken but charismatic Ramy Zamzam, had just started dental school at Howard University. This past week, he would have taken his first round of final exams.

Instead, he and his friends were sitting in jail cells in Pakistan, not yet charged but suspected of trying to join militants who are fighting U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

"We had such hope for them," says Mustafa Abu Maryam, the volunteer youth coordinator at the Islamic Circle of North America mosque, a one-story brick house tucked in a residential street in Alexandria, a northern Virginia suburb of Washington, D.C.

While the mosque is traditional, with a curtain dividing men and women during prayers, for instance, he and other leaders say they have always rejected extremism.

That may not matter, however, in an age when just about anyone on the Internet can connect with terrorists and where even young Muslims from moderate families can get caught up in what some call "Jihadi cool."

These are "seemingly well-adjusted kids who are forming a subculture of their own—namely, the Muslim under siege," says Saeed Khan, a specialist in Islam who teaches at Wayne State University in Michigan, a state with a large Arab Muslim presence.

It is a scenario that has played out in Britain more than once. And some suspect it happened here, too, since one of the young men left a farewell video that mixed war scenes and calls to fight for Muslims across the world.

In this instance, Khan thinks the young men's close proximity to the nation's capital also could have influenced them.

"They feel a certain helplessness that, despite this proximity, they are disenfranchised from helping end the perceived violence against fellow Muslims thousands of miles away," he says.

■ ■ ■ ■

With the exception of one young man's father, who was questioned and released by Pakistani authorities, the families have remained in seclusion, although they are cooperating fully with authorities. Their seclusion has, however, meant that details about some of the young men have been sketchy at best.

Very little is known, for instance, about Aman Hassan Yemer, a young man of Ethiopian descent who, at age 18, is the youngest of the five.

Meanwhile, for at least one other, Waqar Khan, signs of trouble-making had begun to emerge.

Between December 2005 and March 2006, Khan, now 22, was arrested for trespassing, twice at Mount Vernon High, his former school, and once at an unspecified location. Prosecutors dropped two of the charges, and Khan pleaded no contest to the third misdemeanor charge and received a small fine and a year of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to stay away from the high school.

Farooq's mother also told The New York Times that Khan, whose former employers included United Parcel Service, had brought $25,000 with him to Pakistan, significant money for someone in his circumstances.

Still, those details offer little explanation or solace to family and friends.

Erika Nelson, assistant general manager at the gym where some of the young men worked out, was particularly fond of Zamzam, calling the 22-year-old dental student and his family "very decent, loving, smart" people.

"I can only guess he was misguided," she says, although others insist that Zamzam was far from an easily influenced follower.

"He's the type of person that thought for himself. He was very bright and confident, and I could never see him as the type of person getting involved in such crazy stuff and the stuff the media is talking about," says Said Ahmed, a 22-year-old student at Northeastern University who knew Zamzam when they were both freshman at Howard.

This was a guy who, according to friends, regularly passed out sandwiches to the homeless in Washington.

"He was more the person people looked up to," Ahmed says.

Sebastian Evennou, who joined the U.S. Army this year after graduating from high school, was on the wrestling team with 20-year-old Ahmed Minni, the final member of the five.

Contacted via Facebook, Evennou called Minni "really dedicated" and said he would not have imagined he would be arrested for something like this: "he never showed any hostility toward any american ideas that i know of," he wrote. "he was even happy with the fact that i joined the military. and said he was thinking about it too."

If the allegations from Pakistani authorities prove true, it will not be the first time that U.S. Muslims from the Washington area traveled to Pakistan to receive militant training.

In 2003, federal prosecutors charged 11 young men from the region with being part of a "Virginia jihad network" that used paintball games in the Virginia woods as a means to train for global holy war. In the end, 12 men were convicted on various charges, including several who went to Pakistan to receive training from Lashkar-e-Taiba, a militant group that the men saw as a steppingstone to joining the Taliban.

While the five men implicated in the current investigation appear to have been rebuffed in their efforts to receive training, the members of the Virginia jihad paintball group were accepted, in large part because one of their members, Randall Royer, had previously trained with Lashkar.

Members of this more recent group of five were much more low-key, and blended in more in their diverse neighborhood, a mix of nondescript residential streets and strip malls with any number of common chain stores and restaurants.

They also allegedly contacted their Taliban source through YouTube, an online video service that terrorists are using as a recruiting tool.

That is particularly scary to some Muslims, including Arsalan Iftikhar, an international human rights lawyer and commentator in Washington, D.C., who often writes about Muslim issues on his Web site. He is among those urging for more moderate Muslim groups to fight, or at least counter, terrorist postings on the Internet.

"These guys are essentially brainwashed pawns of terrorist propaganda," he says of the five young men.

And he, too, is angry at them.

"These are wannabe thugs who are real-world idiots."

*Associated Press writer Matthew Barakat contributed to this report.*

# Overdrive

# 2010 Honda Element: Still ugly and lovable

By WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.**—There is a pecking order among automobiles in this citadel of affluence. Exotics rule. And exotics are not to be confused with ordinary luxury.

Exotics include names such as Aston Martin, Audi R8, Bentley, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Porsche and Rolls-Royce.

Ordinary luxury, by comparison, covers Acura, BMW, Cadillac, Infiniti, Jaguar, Lexus and Mercedes-Benz.

Ordinary luxury gets nods here. But vehicles in that category often are parked behind the exotics at fancy venues, such as the Bazaar Restaurant at the SLS Hotel at Beverly Hills.

Paparazzi, buzzing around the place like flies searching for sugar, stay on the lookout for the exotic makes. Ordinary luxury might catch their attention. But common vehicles, such as the 2010 Honda Element EX crossover utility wagon I drove back home in Virginia before coming here, are apt to be ignored.

In this gilded enclave, where the average condominium or house costs $2.9 million and the average household income is $90,088, the tall, boxy Element, with its cloth seats and washable vinyl floors, is the motorized equivalent of working class.

But the Element wasn't conceived that way.

Eight years ago, the Element was introduced in the United States as a wagon for every man and woman, particularly for those age 18 to 30, who cared more for function than image. It had an interior large enough to transport a dormitory room full of furniture. It could be turned into an instrument hauler for a rock band. With its fold-against-the-wall rear seats, it could be transformed into a bicycle transport for a three-person racing team.

The 2010 Honda Element EX crossover utility wagon is what it is: a wagon tall of height and short of length, city-capable in terms of fitting into tight parking spaces, relatively easy on the pockets in the important matter of fuel costs, and easy on the mind when it comes to reliability and maintenance. AP

Those utilitarian virtues remain in the 2010 Element. But over the years, the wagon has morphed into a super-practical, bread-and-butter vehicle for cost-sensitive people of all ages. Young people like it because of its affordability (purchase and operating costs), ruggedness and utility. Older people, it turns out, have fallen in love with it for the same reasons.

Honda is to be commended for recognizing the elements of the Element's basic appeal and not doing anything to destroy it in a bid to keep up with the Aston Martins and the Bentleys.

The Element, instead, is what it is—a wagon tall of height and short of length, city-capable in terms of fitting into tight parking spaces, relatively easy on the pockets in the important matter of fuel costs, and easy on the mind when it comes to reliability and maintenance.

No one would call the Element pretty. Nor would anyone who has ever driven an Element, old or new, rave about its acceleration or handling, especially in strong highway crosswinds when its boxy styling turns it into a bit of a kite.

What's lovable about the Element is the way it keeps chugging along in weather fair and foul, especially in the case of the tested all-wheel-drive EX version, ever mindful that its job is to haul stuff and people as safely and efficiently as possible. That it does those things with little concern about dirt, grime or image is a plus.

Here, the image attendants probably would park the Honda Element EX and its motorized siblings behind the likes of an SLS hotel. But I'm betting that camera-shy guests wouldn't mind that at all. The Element's astoundingly boxy styling makes it the perfect vehicle for people who favor anonymity over exposure.

## NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

### THE BOTTOM LINE
The Honda Element remains elemental after eight years in the marketplace, and that's a good thing. It has a stronger engine along with a few new features, such as onboard navigation and satellite radio availability. But nothing has been done to tinker with its reason for being, which is to provide solid, basic wagon transportation in a high-quality vehicle at an affordable price.

### COMPLAINTS
Driving the Honda Element on a windswept highway can be a chore. Its boxy body seems to catch wind at every angle. And some drivers find visibility poor because of its large pillars.

### RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
Ride and acceleration are decent to good under most circumstances. Handling is good on straight and gently curved roads with mild winds.

### HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
With its rubber cladding and boxy body, the Element looks like something charmingly designed by school kid.

### BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Element is a compact, entry-level, front-engine crossover utility vehicle built on a car platform. It has four side doors and a horizontally split rear tailgate. It is offered with front-wheel-drive, or all-wheel-drive.

### ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
The 2010 Honda Element has a standard 2.4-liter, 16-valve, in-line four-cylinder engine that develops 166-horsepower at 5,800 rpm and 161 foot-pounds of torque at 4,000 rpm. The engine is linked to a five-speed automatic.

### CAPACITIES
There are seats for four people. Maximum cargo capacity is 75 cubic feet. The Element can be equipped to tow a trailer weighing 1,500 pounds. Fuel capacity is 15.9 gallons of recommended regular gasoline.

### MILEAGE
You get 19 miles per gallon in the city and 24 miles per gallon on the highway.

### PRICE
The base price of the 2010 Honda Element EX with onboard navigation and all-wheel drive is $25,585. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $23,803. Price as tested is $26,295 including a $710 destination charge. (At this writing, there are no options available on the Element EX with navigation and all-wheel drive.) Dealer's price as tested is $24,513. Prices are sourced from Honda, Edmunds.com and Cars.Com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

## AUTOMOTIVE BRIEFS

### Carmakers paid $6.4M in fuel efficiency fines
**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Six automakers paid fines totaling $6.4 million in 2009 because they failed to comply with federal fuel-efficiency standards. The government says Porsche Cars North America paid $3.7 million in fines for violations dealing with imported passenger cars and light trucks. Maserati Automobiles of America paid a fine of $1.3 million for imported cars. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration also collected fines from Mercedes-Benz's U.S. division, Ferrari North America, Chrysler Group LLC and Fiat Group SpA. Many manufacturers of luxury vehicles consider the fuel efficiency fines as the cost of doing business. The fines were established to ensure that vehicles meet basic gas mileage standards.

### Hyundai Motor announces China truck venture
**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—Hyundai Motor Co. said Sunday it has agreed to launch a $400 million truck manufacturing venture in China with a local partner as it seeks further inroads in the world's biggest auto market. Hyundai Motor, South Korea's largest automaker, said it signed an initial agreement with Chinese commercial vehicle manufacturer Baotou Bei Ben Heavy-Duty Truck Co. and has set a sales target of 100,000 heavy duty trucks in China by 2014. Under the deal, signed Saturday in Seoul, the two companies will invest a total of $400 million to set up the 50-50 joint venture next year, Hyundai said. It will take over the Chinese company's existing large truck business that can manufacture 40,000 vehicles a year. Hyundai, which already makes passenger cars in China, said it will initially focus on heavy duty trucks in the new venture and gradually boost its investment to include what it described as a "full lineup of commercial vehicles."

### Spyker Cars renews bid to buy Saab from GM
**STOCKHOLM** (AP)—In a final attempt to rescue Saab Automobile AB, Dutch auto maker Spyker Cars on Sunday submitted a new offer to buy the Swedish brand from General Motors Co. Spyker said it has submitted a new 11-point proposal to GM, addressing the issues that made talks collapse earlier this week. GM on Friday said it would wind down Saab because issues arose during the sales talks with Spyker that could not be resolved, and the window of time to complete a deal was small. Spyker CEO Victor R. Muller said he hoped the new offer would make GM change its mind. Muller said the new offer removes a demand that a loan from the European Investment Bank to Saab be approved before the end of the year, and has the full backing of Saab's management. It said the offer expires Monday, giving GM little time to make a decision.

### Porsche reports revenue down by 30 percent
**BERLIN** (AP)—Porsche Automobil Holding SE said Friday that revenue for its August-October period was down by 30.5 percent at €1.1 billion ($1.6 billion). Total revenue was at €26.8 billion, a decline pinned on its consolidation of Volkswagen AG. The company said because of the consolidation it wasn't possible to provide a comparison to figures from last year. Shares of Porsche SE were down 1.3 percent to €44.05 in Frankfurt trading while Volkswagen shares were down 2.5 percent to €78. The Stuttgart-based company said in a statement that car sales went down by 41 percent in the three-months period to 11,385 cars. Last week, Volkswagen, based in Wolfsburg, bought an initial 49.9 percent stake in fellow car maker Porsche AG for €3.9 billion. VW has made no secret of its plans to take Porsche over completely by 2011, adding the brand to its stable that includes luxury car makers Audi and Bentley, as well as more inexpensive and accessible Skoda, Seat and VW.

# Life & Style

# Future is now for Avatar's Saldana, Worthington

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The future keeps calling for Zoe Saldana and Sam Worthington.

They had breakout hits last summer in established science-fiction franchises, she in "Star Trek," set in the bright human future of the 23rd century, he in "Terminator Salvation," set in an apocalyptic wasteland a couple of decades from now.

Now they have a potential sci-fi franchise of their own in James Cameron's "Avatar," a 22nd-century space epic that casts them in a love story involving a 10-foot (3-meter)-tall blue alien and a paralyzed human inhabiting a similar body engineered in the laboratory.

Both had been on a gradual rise in Hollywood but were relative unknowns when Cameron cast them as the leads for "Avatar," his first narrative film since 1997's "Titanic."

After completing the bulk of the work on "Avatar," Saldana went off to costar as communications officer Uhura in J.J. Abrams' revival of "Star Trek," while Worthington starred alongside Christian Bale in "Terminator Salvation," a continuation of the franchise Cameron started.

"I've told Sam that I think it's ... decent of him to go out and become a movie star since he finished 'Avatar,'" Cameron said. "I thought that was ... considerate. And Zoe, absolutely, with 'Star Trek.' She was fabulous in the film."

Worthington plays Jake Sully, an ex-Marine now in a wheelchair, who signs on to help humans obtain an energy-rich mineral on the distant moon of Pandora, where blue natives called Na'vi live in harmony with their world's environment. Jake is part of the Avatar Program, which transfers human consciousness into Na'vi-like bodies so they can survive on Pandora and interact with the locals.

Na'vi huntress Neytiri (Saldana) winds up as Jake's reluctant mentor, the two gradually falling in love and becoming key figures in a stand against rapacious humans intent on pillaging Pandora's resources.

Cameron shot the Pandora sequences using performance-capture technology, the actors performing on a sound stage, their movements and expressions recorded by digital cameras, the exotic features of the characters and other effects added later through computer animation.

Worthington is featured in human form for much of the film, but Saldana appears only as her Na'vi alter-ego, generally humanoid in shape but with a tail, pointed ears and huge eyes.

"It did kind of hit my ego a little bit that it wasn't going to be my face. I would not be human if I told you that it didn't bother me or that that wasn't something that crossed my mind. It did for two nanoseconds, and then it went away," Saldana said.

"Because once I understood how the technology was working, I understood the integrity that Jim was going to maintain with our performances, I was like, 'This is me.' ... I'm so her that I'm there, even though I never was, you know?"

Worthington also said that for all the extraterrestrial trappings, the Na'vi at their core were the humans who played them.

"The performance is all me. There's no questions. My mate said, 'I'm sick of looking at your head normally. Now I've got to see you as a ... blue alien.' He goes, 'And it is you! I can see your smile,'" Worthington said.

"When I've seen it, I forget that I'm watching, after all, big, blue aliens, and I see what Jake saw in Neytiri, which is her soul, her spunk, her spirit. I think that's what translates, more than any other performance-capture movie I've seen, which is the spirit of these people, of me and Zoe."

Saldana, 31, has had roles in such Hollywood films as "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," ''Guess Who," ''The Terminal" and "Drumline." Given the longevity of the "Star Trek" brand name, she has a potentially long career as Uhura and will see more action with the upcoming comic-book adaptation "The Losers."

Trained at Australia's National Institute of Dramatic Art, Worthington, 33, had small roles in "Hart's War" and "The Great Raid," and auditioned to become the next James Bond in "Casino Royale" but lost out to Daniel Craig. He follows "Avatar" with another big visual spectacle in 2010's remake of "Clash of the Titans."

If "Avatar" proves a hit, Cameron said he has ideas for two sequels. Saldana and Worthington are game for a return trip to Pandora.

Like the franchises that grew out of "Star Wars" and "Star Trek," Saldana said, "I feel that 'Avatar' has every potential to carry that torch, as well."

AP

Cast members Sam Worthington, right, and Zoe Saldana pose together at the premiere of "Avatar" in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009.

## 'Avatar' blasts off with $232.2 million worldwide

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—James Cameron launched his science-fiction epic "Avatar" into a safe orbit as the costly film soared to No. 1 with $73 million domestically and $159.2 million overseas, for a $232.2 million worldwide total.

With that big a start, distributor 20th Century Fox was quick to proclaim it made a good investment with the estimated $400 million spent to make and market the film, which is Cameron's first narrative feature since 1997's "Titanic," the king of modern blockbusters.

"Absolutely. No question," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution for the studio, which reported stellar reaction in exit polls from audiences after seeing "Avatar." "The word of mouth is something that I don't know I've ever seen in this business before."

"Avatar" was a test case for the future of digital 3-D projection, which until now has been a hit with audiences mainly on animated family films.

The film fell short of the record for December debuts of $77.2 million set two years ago by Will Smith's "I Am Legend." But it did break the record for a film opening in 3-D, previously held by last summer's "Up" with $68.1 million.

"What they spent on this movie was totally justified, and they're going to more than earn it back," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

"Avatar" stars Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana in a love story amid human-alien conflict on a distant moon in the 22nd century.

Storms on the East Coast kept many people at home, cutting into weekend movie business.

"The weather really, really hurt," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution at Sony, whose comedy "Did You Hear About the Morgans?", opened at a weak No. 4 with $7 million. Sony had expected the movie to debut at about $8 million.

The overall box office shot up on the strength of "Avatar." Hollywood's domestic revenues came in at $134 million, up 51.5 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Yes Man" opened at No. 1 with $18.3 million, according to Hollywood.com.

1. "**Avatar**," $73 million.
2. "**The Princess and the Frog**," $12.2 million.
3. "**The Blind Side**," $10 million.
4. "**Did You Hear About the Morgans?**", $7 million.
5. "**The Twilight Saga" New Moon**," $4.4 million.
6. "**Invictus**," $4.2 million.
7. "**Disney's a Christmas Carol**," $3.4 million.
8. "**Up in the Air,**" $3.1 million.
9. "**Brothers**," $2.6 million.
10. "**Old Dogs**," $2.3 million.

AP

In this film publicity image released by 20th Century Fox, the character Neytiri, voiced by Zoe Saldana, right, and the character Jake, voiced by Sam Worthington are shown in a scene from, "Avatar."

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, Disney's animated musical "The Princess and the Frog," slipped to second place with $12.2 million, raising its total to $44.8 million.

Paramount's recession story "Up in the Air," which led last Tuesday's Golden Globes announcement with six nominations, broke into the top 10 as it widened to more theaters ahead of its nationwide expansion Wednesday.

"Up in the Air" came in at No. 8 with $3.1 million. The film stars George Clooney as a man addicted to the frequent-flyer life as he travels the country firing people at downsizing companies.

No one expects "Avatar" to be another "Titanic," which started with a modest $28.6 million opening weekend domestically but held on at No. 1 for months. The film finished with a record $600 million domestically and $1.8 billion worldwide.

Some reviewers found the story and characters two-dimensional, but critics generally were wowed by the dazzling images Cameron created.

"I think it is the must-see film event of recent memory," Fox executive Aronson said. "I do believe it is a game-changing movie. It will change the way people think about movies, the way they see movies, what they want to see in movies."

# Actress Brittany Murphy dies in LA at age 32

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Brittany Murphy, the actress who got her start in the sleeper hit "Clueless" and rose to stardom in "8 Mile" before her movie roles declined in recent years, died Sunday in Los Angeles of what appeared to be natural causes, a Los Angeles County coroner's official said. She was 32.

Murphy was pronounced dead at 10:04 a.m. at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, hospital spokeswoman Sally Stewart said.

Murphy was transported to the hospital after the Los Angeles Fire Department responded to a call at 8 a.m. at the home she shared with her husband, British screenwriter Simon Monjack, in the Hollywood Hills.

Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said Murphy apparently collapsed in the bathroom, and authorities were looking into her medical history.

An official cause of death may not be determined for some time, since toxicology tests will be required, but "it appears to be natural," Winter said. He said an autopsy was planned for Monday or Tuesday.

In this Nov. 26, 2006 file photo, U.S. actress Brittany Murphy arrives in Leicester Square for the European premiere of her latest film "Happy Feet" in central London.

AP

Winter said Murphy's family was cooperating with the coroner's investigation. Funeral arrangements have not been announced, he said.

Los Angeles police have opened an investigation into Murphy's death, Officer Norma Eisenman said. Detectives and coroner's officials were at Murphy and Monjack's home Sunday afternoon but did not talk to reporters. Paparazzi were camped outside the multistory home, located above the Sunset Strip.

Messages left for Murphy's manager and agent by The Associated Press were not immediately returned.

Neighbor Clare Staples said she saw firefighters working to resuscitate the actress Sunday morning. She said Murphy was on a stretcher and "looked as though she was dead at the scene."

Murphy's husband, wearing pajama bottoms and no shoes, appeared "dazed" as firefighters tried to save her, Staples said. "It's just tragic," she added.

TMZ.com first reported Murphy's death Sunday morning.

Murphy's father, Angelo Bertolotti, said he learned of her death from his son, the actress's brother, and was stunned.

"She was just an absolute doll since she was born," Bertolotti said from his Branford, Fla., home. "Her personality was always outward. Everybody loved her - people that made movies with her, people on a cruise - they all loved her. She was just a regular gal."

He said he hadn't heard much about the circumstances of Murphy's death. Bertolotti divorced her mother when Murphy was young and hadn't seen Murphy in the past few years. He said he used to be in the mob and served prison time on federal drug charges.

"She was just talented," Bertolotti said. "And I loved her very much."

Meanwhile, Murphy's publicist, Nicole Perna, said in a statement: "In this time of sadness, the family thanks you for your love and support. It is their wish that you respect their privacy."

Born Nov. 10, 1977, in Atlanta, Murphy grew up in New Jersey and later moved with her mother to Los Angeles to pursue acting.

Her career started in the early 1990s with small roles in television series, commercials and movies. She is best known for parts in "Girl, Interrupted," "Clueless" and "8 Mile."

Her on-screen work had lessened of late, but Murphy's voice gave life to numerous animated characters, including Luanne Platter on more than 200 episodes of Fox's "King of the Hill" and Gloria the penguin in the 2006 feature "Happy Feet."

She is due to appear in Sylvester Stallone's upcoming film, "The Expendables," set for release next year.

Her role in "8 Mile" led to more recognition, Murphy told AP in 2003. "That changed a lot," she said. "That was the difference between people knowing my first and last name as opposed to not."

Murphy credited her mother, Sharon, with being a key to her success.

"When I asked my mom to move to California, she sold everything and moved out here for me," Murphy said. "I was really grateful to have grown up in an environment that was conducive to creating and didn't stifle any of that. She always believed in me."

She dated Ashton Kutcher, who costarred with Murphy in 2003's romantic comedy "Just Married."

Kutcher sent a message on Twitter Sunday morning about Murphy's death: "2day the world lost a little piece of sunshine," Kutcher wrote. "My deepest condolences go out 2 Brittany's family, her husband, & her amazing mother Sharon."

# Friend: Polanski finishing film under house arrest

**GENEVA** (AP)—Roman Polanski is finishing the edit of his latest movie "Ghost" from his house arrest in Switzerland, surrounded by family and bombarded by telephone calls of support, French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy said in an interview Sunday.

Polanski

Levy, a friend of the 76-year-old director, told the Lausanne-based weekly Le Matin Dimanche that he visited Polanski in his chalet in the luxury Swiss resort of Gstaad about 10 days ago and found him like "a rock," working and confident, even though his family is worried about the U.S. extradition request hanging over him.

"It's in fact very impressive. He is in the process of finishing at a distance the editing of his next film, which I understand will be in the official selection at the next Berlin Festival," Levy said.

He said he was able to have a friendly dinner with Polanski in the chalet. Being able to entertain at home was one of the privileges the director received after his Dec. 4 transfer to house arrest from a Swiss jail after more than 60 days of detention.

Polanski has to wear an electronic monitoring bracelet around his ankle to guard against his leaving the grounds of the chalet, but he is able to receive guests inside or outside the house, work on his films, make telephone calls and send e-mails as much as he likes.

"The telephone doesn't stop ringing, the messages of support are pouring in, especially from his Swiss friends," Levy said.

He said Polanski told him Swiss officials were only doing their job in arresting him Sept. 26 and holding him in detention, but that all of them had treated him with kindness and appeared "extraordinarily embarrassed" by what he was going through.

Swiss authorities have said they will decide early next year whether to extradite Polanski to the U.S. where he is wanted in Los Angeles for sentencing for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl.

If Polanski breaks the conditions of his house arrest, the Swiss government would confiscate the $4.5 million bail he deposited. That substantial amount was a key element in granting the house arrest—a first in Switzerland for a detainee in an extradition case.

Polanski's two children—Elvis, 9, and Morgane, 16—and his wife, French actress Emmanuelle Seigner, have been staying in the chalet with him.

The Oscar-winning director of "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown" and "The Pianist" was arrested as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival.

# Natalie White wins 'Survivor,' collects $1M prize

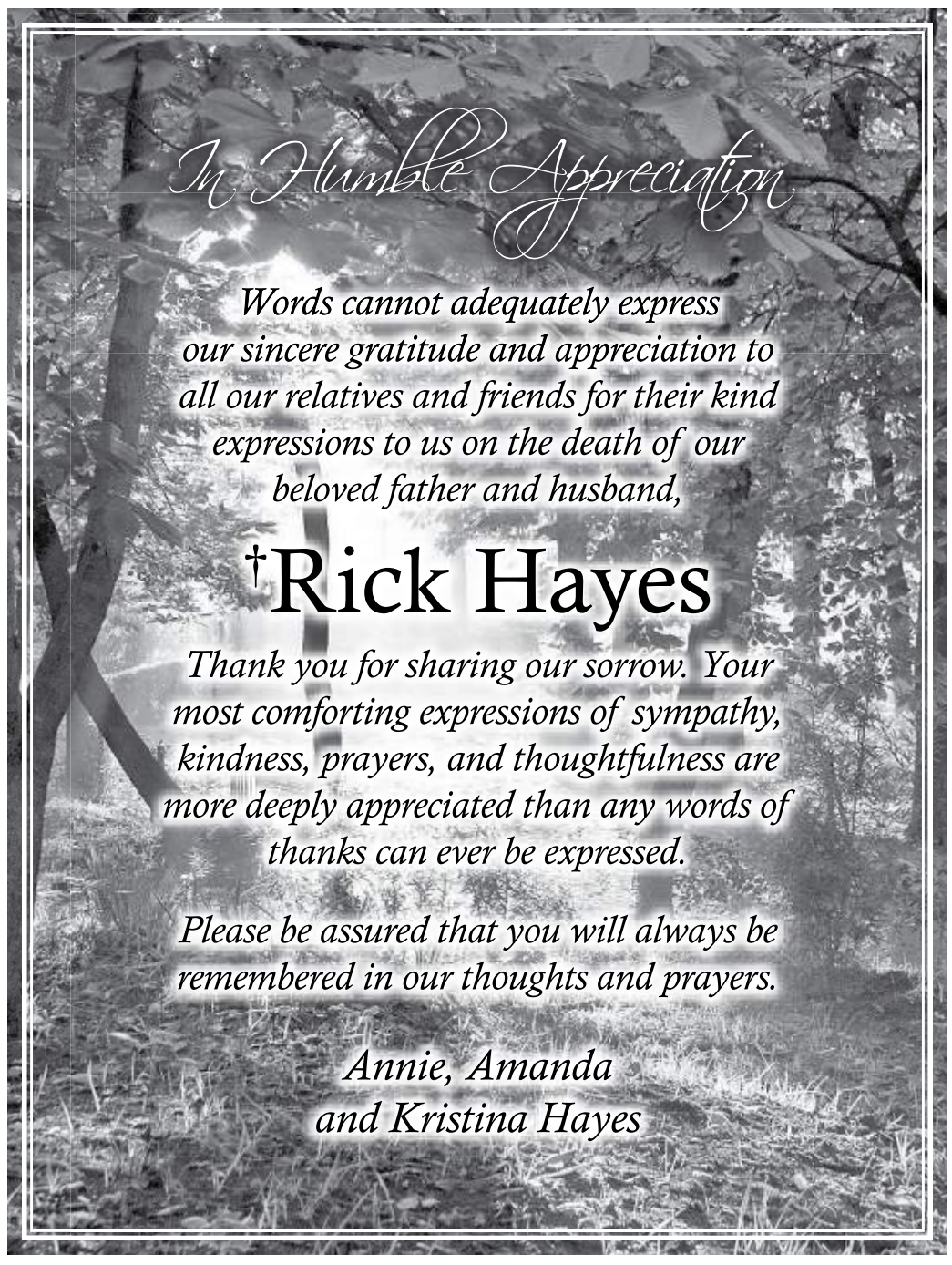
**NEW YORK** (AP)—An out-of-work pharmaceuticals saleswoman is the winner of the CBS reality television show "Survivor: Samoa."

Van Buren, Ark., resident Natalie White won the $1 million prize Sunday night by outwitting, outplaying and outlasting an oil company owner and a doctor in the final episode.

The 26-year-old White was accused by jury members of riding the coattails of Dayton, Texas, oil millionaire Russell Hantz, who finished second. She says she recognized early in the game that aggressive women were being eliminated and she had to maintain a low profile.

Hantz was the mastermind behind most eliminations and was thought by some players to be a shoo-in for the win.

Los Angeles doctor Mick Trimming was the third finalist.


In Humble Appreciation
Words cannot adequately express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives and friends for their kind expressions to us on the death of our beloved father and husband,
†Rick Hayes
Thank you for sharing our sorrow. Your most comforting expressions of sympathy, kindness, prayers, and thoughtfulness are more deeply appreciated than any words of thanks can ever be expressed.
Please be assured that you will always be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.
Annie, Amanda and Kristina Hayes

# Golden nods continue Bullock's blockbuster year

By RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**HOLLYWOOD**—Is 45 the new 25?

Maybe, if you consider the career of Sandra Bullock, who this year pulled in the biggest box-office bonanza of her career, powering both the romantic comedy "The Proposal" ($163 million domestically) and the inspirational sports drama "The Blind Side" ($150 million and counting). Tuesday, the films also earned Bullock, a perennial audience favorite, double Golden Globe nominations—one each for lead actress in a comedy film and a drama film—giving her a legitimate shot at her first Oscar nomination.

Bullock has company in the double-laurel category with frequent Golden Globe contender Meryl Streep, who was nominated for her performance as a happy divorcee in "It's Complicated" and as chef Julia Child in "Julie & Julia," and Matt Damon, who received nods for his work in "The Informant!" and "Invictus."

Yet for Bullock, the nominations cap a year in which her commercial and critical success marked a turnaround from some of her more recent misfires—"The Lake House," "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed & Fabulous." None of which Bullock allows herself to follow too closely.

In this Nov. 17, 2009 file photo, Sandra Bullock attend the Warner Bros. Pictures premiere of "The Blind Side," in New York. AP

Just days before the nominations were announced, the actress noted that she doesn't usually bother to read reviews, "because they're usually bad, because of the films I like to make. I like to make what I like to make, and if I read how badly I'm talked about, I might change my direction.

"For that same reason, I can't look at the good. I saw a quote the other day—I sat there and I thought I would cry. I'm overwhelmed that someone would say something that nice. And I said, for that reason, I must shut this off. It caught me off-guard."

Bullock burst into stardom driving a bus loaded with explosives in the 1994 action hit "Speed" and developed a following for her unpretentious air and her facility for comedy. Hit after hit followed with such light fare as "While You Were Sleeping" and the original "Miss Congeniality." When she proved adept at a rare dramatic turn in the 2006 Oscar winner "Crash," critics took little notice.

Hollywood largely perceived Bullock as being on the downward slope because of her age and the less successful films that followed. The actress was not even the first choice for either of Tuesday's nominated roles—Julia Roberts first passed on "The Proposal" and also expressed no interest in "The Blind Side" after receiving that script.

Few recognized what a cultural phenomenon "The Blind Side" would be, playing to packed audiences, particularly in the South. Twentieth Century Fox passed on making it, and Bullock herself initially had reservations about taking the lead role.

In the John Lee Hancock film, based on a true story, Bullock plays Leigh Anne Tuohy, a fiery Southerner who adopts a homeless black teen and eventually nurtures him to become a star football player.

Hancock says Bullock expressed reservations about the part because Tuohy "is impossible to define easily" but agreed after meeting the real-life woman.

"It's the hardest thing I will ever do. And because of that, I should do it," Hancock says Bullock told him.

The filmmaker says that initial fear is exactly what forces many actors to abandon a role rather than dive into it. But the actress told him it was consistent with her confident worldview.

"Some of the best things in my life," Hancock recalls the actress telling him, "are the very things I first said no to."

In a statement released after her nominations, Bullock sounded characteristically excited and self-deprecating: "I am beyond stunned. Just to be included in the company of these amazing women I have so admired through the years has left me slack-jawed with awe."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Avatar
Friday & Saturday 12:15 3:30 6:45 10:00
Sunday 12:15 3:30 6:45
Mon thru Thurs 3:30 6:45
Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
A paraplegic ex-marine war veteran is unwillingly sent to establish a human settlement on the distant planet of Pandora, only to find himself battling humankind alongside the planet's indigenous Na'vi race in this ambitious, digital 3-D sci-fi epic from Academy Award-winning Titanic director James Cameron. The film, which marks Cameron's first dramatic feature since 1997's Titanic, will be shot on the proprietary FUSION digital 3-D cameras developed by Cameron in collaboration with Vince Pace, and will offer a groundbreaking mix of live-action dramatic performances and computer-generated effects.

Did You Hear About The Morgans?
Friday & Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Hugh Grant, Sarah Jessica Parker
Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
A well-off couple (Sarah Jessica Parker and Hugh Grant) in N.Y.C. get a taste of small-town life after they witness a murder and are relocated by the Witness Protection Program to Wyoming in this Columbia Pictures romantic comedy from Two Weeks Notice's writer/director Marc Lawrence.

The Princess And The Frog
Friday & Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:20
Anika Noni Rose, John Goodman
Comedy, Family • Rated G
Synopsis
After being summoned back to the Mouse House by Pixar founder John Lasseter in 2006, Aladin and Treasure Planet directors Ron Clements and John Musker join forces once again for this traditionally animated 2-D fantasy for the entire family, set in New Orleans. Former Dreamgirl Anika Noni Rose will voice the lead character Tiana, Disney's first African-American heroine in their long heritage of fairy tale animated features. Also in the voice cast is Keith David, lending his baritone chords to the film's villain, Dr. Facilier.

Ninja Assassin
Friday & Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10
Rain, Rick Yune
Action • Rated R

2012
Friday & Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 10:10
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
John Cusack, Amanda Peet
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Twilight Saga: New Moon
Friday & Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Thriller, Romance • Rated PG 13

The Blind Side
Friday & Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:25
Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

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# Matthews leads top acts in concert sales

By RANDY LEWIS
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**LOS ANGELES**—How much do rock fans love the Dave Matthews Band?

Pollstar has counted the ways, and it's more than half a billion dollars' worth, enough to land the relentlessly touring group at the top of the concert industry tracking publication's ranking of the decade's highest-grossing North American concert tours.

It's a textbook example of sure and steady triumphing in the end.

"Dave Matthews has never had the No. 1 tour of the year," Pollstar editor Gary Bongiovanni said Friday. "It's always been Madonna or Prince or (Bruce) Springsteen or (Paul) McCartney or U2 or the Rolling Stones. Consistency definitely mattered."

The Dave Matthews Band not only ended up with the highest cumulative concert gross from 2000 through 2009—at $529.1 million—but the group also sold significantly more tickets, 11.7 million, during that period than any other act.

Consistency also factored into the runner-up on Pollstar's tally, a performer who spent half the decade anchored in one city: Celine Dion grossed $522.2 million, and a large portion of that came from her five-year run at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace, where average ticket prices far exceed those of most conventional pop concert tours.

"That was from working a lot of nights a week," Bongiovanni said. "So even though it was a fairly small venue, the tickets were fairly expensive."

Dion's total box-office gross came in right behind Matthews, even though she played to slightly more than one-third the number of people, 4 million.

Behind the Dave Matthews Band and Dion in the top five of Pollstar's listing, which will be published in its Dec. 28 issue, are, in order: Kenny Chesney ($455.6 million at the box office from 8.6 million tickets sold), Springsteen ($444.3 million, 5.7 million tickets) and the Rolling Stones ($426.9 million, 3.2 million tickets).

Rounding out the top 10: U2 ($391 million, 4.4 million tickets), Madonna ($325.3 million, 2.1 million tickets), the Eagles ($313.4 million, 2.8 million tickets), Elton John ($286.4 million, 2.5 million tickets) and Jimmy Buffett ($285.8 million, 4.5 million tickets).

Dion and Chesney might take special satisfaction in their high rankings, being the only acts in the top 10 to have launched their careers within the past 20 years.

But even though classic rock acts from the 1960s and '70s dominate the list—causing some people concern in the concert business considering that McCartney and members of the Stones will be in their 70s in a few short years—Bongiovanni noted a solid showing by acts that launched their careers comparatively recently.

Metallica finished at No. 15 (with a $225.5 million gross), with country trio Rascal Flatts right behind at No. 16 ($222.4 million), 'N Sync (No. 18, $196.4 million), Britney Spears (No. 19, $195.7 million) and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra (No. 20, $194.9 million).

"'N Sync exploded," Bongiovanni said, "and then crashed and died, but still ended up at No. 18. And look at Phish: They spent most of the decade broken up but still managed to generate enough revenue to make the list."

The jam band snagged the No. 49 position, with $116.7 million and 2.6 million tickets sold.

# Lewd Ashanti messages just 'sex texting,' man says

**NEW YORK** (AP) — A would-be rapper accused of sending crude and creepy text messages about Ashanti to the R&B star's parents says he thought his messages were welcome banter between future business partners.

Devar Hurd told jurors at his New York City trial Friday he was just "sex texting" and joking when he sent lewd remarks, graphic photos and a picture of the family home. The sometime model and former car salesman from Griffith, Indiana, says the multiplatinum-selling singer's family was planning to do an unspecified business deal with him.

Ashanti's mother, Tina Douglas, testified Hurd was a stranger who bombarded her with disgusting messages, though she told him to stop. He says she didn't.

The 31-year-old Hurd is charged with stalking and harassment.

# Fans can investigate Sherlock Holmes in Minn.

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Anyone searching for clues about the enduring popularity of Sherlock Holmes need not look only to his headquarters on London's Baker Street.

Deep in an underground cavern at the University of Minnesota lies the world's largest collection of Holmes memorabilia—a cache sure to expand with material from the new "Sherlock Holmes" movie starring Robert Downey Jr. as the pipe-puffing super sleuth.

To many, it's a mystery how this trove of tens of thousands of books, toys, games, posters and recordings—from copies of the Holmes stories owned by the last empress of Russia to an original manuscript page of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"—ended up at a Midwestern university, half a world away from the foggy London streets of Holmes and his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

The answer is elementary, according to Tim Johnson, curator of special collections and rare books at the University of Minnesota Libraries: A "happy series of accidents" involving a retired university librarian, a Nobel Prize laureate and a Holmes fan who took a "vacuum cleaner" approach to collecting.

"People think the Holmes collection ought to be in London. So it's 'why Minnesota?' And it's really just this series of happy events that occurred over time," Johnson said.

"Sherlock Holmes," already out in Britain, is being released Christmas Day in the U.S. Directed by Guy Ritchie ("Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels"), the film stars Downey ("Iron Man") as a man-of-action Holmes unraveling a nefarious plot by Lord Blackwood in Victorian England with the help of his sidekick Dr. John Watson, played by Jude Law.

AP

Tim Johnson, curator of special collections and rare books at the University of Minnesota Libraries, displays two dolls dressed as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in the Sherlock Holmes Collection Wednesday Nov. 23, 2009 in the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

The Holmes collection in Minnesota has between 15,000 and 16,000 volumes, and other pieces bring the archive to 60,000 or more, Johnson said. They are kept in a cavern, fitted out for storage, about 85 feet below ground at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, where temperatures and humidity are controlled.

On metal shelves sit memorabilia including magnifying glasses, an ice cream carton with a cartoon cow wearing Holmes' iconic deerstalker cap and a pillow with an image of Sherlock Hemlock, a Muppet character from "Sesame Street."

Los Angeles attorney Les Klinger, who wrote "The Annotated Sherlock Holmes" series and was a consultant on the new movie, has donated his papers to the university's collection. Other major Holmes or Doyle archives are at Harvard University, the Toronto Public Library and Portsmouth, England.

But Klinger calls Minnesota's collection the "first stop for anybody doing research, because if you're looking for something, it's probably in the collection."

Johnson says he believes retired university librarian E.W. McDiarmid, a Holmes fan, "whispered in the ear" of Johnson's predecessor that the university ought to have a collection of first-edition Holmes stories.

The school began amassing the Sherlock Holmes Collections in 1974, buying collector James C. Iraldi's library of Holmes first editions—160 volumes and a similar number of periodicals. Four years later, Johnson said, the widow of Mayo Clinic doctor Philip S. Hench donated his Holmes collection.

Hench, who shared the 1950 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for developing cortisone to treat pain in arthritic patients, had died in 1965. His Holmes collection was 10 times larger than Iraldi's—about 1,800 books and 1,500 periodicals—and was "full of amazing rarities," Johnson said. That included four copies of "Beeton's Christmas Annual," which has the first appearance of Holmes in print, the novella "A Study in Scarlet," from November 1887. Only about 30 copies of Holmes' debut are known to exist, Johnson said.

# Pop star finds right note for anticancer song

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—When Dave Stewart of Eurythmics fame was called on to create a song for an anti-cancer campaign, he was surprised at how easily it came to him and with just the right tone.

"It's very uplifting," he says of "Stand Up to Cancer," which he started writing and recording on his laptop in bed right after awakening one morning.

"You don't really hear the word sung out or spoken out loud a lot. Cancer, putting the word in a song, is a very powerful thing for people recovering from cancer or in treatment."

Stewart did the song for the latest campaign by Stand Up to Cancer, which raises awareness of the disease and money to help speed research into new treatments. He created several versions, including one with violinist Anne Marie Calhoun, his co-writer.

The disease has hit friends and his mother, Stewart says, adding, "I think everyone is kind of surrounded by it."

# Tiny Malta serves as set for epic film

**VALLETTA, Malta** (AP) — The treacherous waves crash against the hull of the Pequod while a whale, its gleaming body shimmering in the sun, rises out of the sea and batters the creaking vessel.

The creature breaches the ship and water starts rushing in, spelling doom for the motley crew led by the fanatical Captain Ahab on a do or die mission to kill the monster mammal.

High seas? No, the water tank of the Malta Film Facilities on the tiny Mediterranean island.

The shattering impact of the whale with the creaking whaling vessel is only one dramatic moment in a TV film based on Herman Melville's classic "Moby Dick."

The film, estimated to cost $25.5 million, is due to be completed by autumn 2010.

Playing Captain Ahab is Academy Award winner William Hurt. Charlie Cox is Ishmael, the sailor who narrates the odyssey. Others in the cast include Academy Award nominee Ethan Hawke as first officer Starbuck and Donald Sutherland as Father Mapple.

This is the most expensive production so far in the 40-year-history of the Tele Munchen Group, which has partnered with RTL, ORF and RHI Entertainment as broadcasters of this enterprise.

The film's international publicists say Moby Dick is planned for broadcast in the fall of 2010. It will be broadcast in Germany on RTL.

The filming crew, which together with technical staff amount to about 80, left Malta Dec.3. They arrived in mid-October.

A model of the Pequod was rammed at the water tank, but high seas and high winds did play a role.

The last three weeks of filming was done two miles off Malta, and while the sun shone, the five-to-seven force whipped up waves that added to the adrenaline rush of the cinematic whale hunt.

Stills of the action at sea show one of the whaling boats being pulled at a frenetic speed by the harpooned whale as foam splashes against the lean structure of the whaling boat.

William Hurt, who in his own words is a weathered sailor, enjoyed the filming tremendously.

Rikolt von Gagern is the producer who with his company Gate film was in charge of the filming for TMG of Jack London's "The Sea Wolf."

The director and scriptwriter of "The Sea Wolf," Mike Barker and Nigel Williams, were responsible for adapting Melville's epic tale for the screen.

Shooting started in Lunenburg, close to Halifax in mid-September. After filming in Malta, it will be back to Halifax to shoot in a studio the scenes below deck.

For Ethan Hawke, his part in this film seems to have been more than coincidental.

"I was traveling for a long time with "The Bridge Project" through New Zealand, Singapore, Madrid, Germany, and finishing in London. I was going to be away from my family for a month.

"My wife and I decided to pick a book that we could read while we were apart. We chose 'Moby Dick.' So when I arrived in London and the script for 'Moby Dick' was sitting on my dressing room table ... I thought it was kind of meant to be."

# Daughter must cut off access to stop nosy mom

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY**: My mother is my best friend, but I can't stop yelling at her for invading my privacy. I have just learned that she has read all my journals since I was 9. She also figured out all my passwords to my e-mail, online blogs and social network accounts.

I have lived away from home for six years. I no longer feel I can leave my mother alone in my apartment because she goes through my text messages, call list, letters, bills, bank statements, etc. I have now stopped writing, which was my only outlet of expression, because of her snooping. She says I hurt her feelings when I yell, but I have reached the end of my rope.

I have had calm conversations with her about this. She always promises that she'll stop, but she never does. Abby, she has no reason to snoop—I talk to her 20 times a day. How can I keep this from ruining our relationship?

MAD IN MANHATTAN

**DEAR MAD: You say you talk to your mother 20 times a day? Doesn't that seem to you to be somewhat excessive? You say she snoops when she's alone in your apartment. How is she gaining unsupervised entry?**

**Speaking as an unbiased outsider, I think some separation from your mother would be healthy for both of you. So change your passwords, put your financial information under lock and key, and cut the umbilical cord. It's long overdue.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I have a male friend who was raised with beautiful manners and always opens a door for a lady. The last time we spoke, he told me he had opened a door for a woman and she told him off! She said she didn't need any "help," that she was capable of opening her own doors, and it should have been obvious that she wasn't disabled—among other things.

My friend didn't know what to say. I told him to just ignore what she said. Was there a polite comeback for him?

STUMPED FOR AN ANSWER

**DEAR STUMPED: No, not unless he wanted to get into a spitting contest with a viper. You say your friend was raised to open doors for ladies. Well, it appears he opened a door for a woman who wasn't one. Please tell him not to give up because anyone with manners would have said thank you and appreciated the gesture. I know I would have.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: My husband and I have been married for 27 years and are raising four children. During a recent visit to my in-laws, I noticed a picture hanging on their wall that we had used as our engagement photo. Abby, the picture had been altered. My portion was cut out! I was shocked and would like to know your thoughts. Should I say something about it, or ignore this obvious slight and move on?

APPARENT OUT-LAW IN HOUSTON

**DEAR OUT-LAW: You say you have been married to their son for 27 years and this the first time you've noticed it? If so, ignore it. However, if the alteration is recent, and you suspect there may be fences that need mending, the next time you pay them a visit, walk over to the picture, say: "Oh, that's our engagement picture. But something seems to be missing. Why ... it's ME. Should I take this as a message?" Then be quiet and listen.**

---

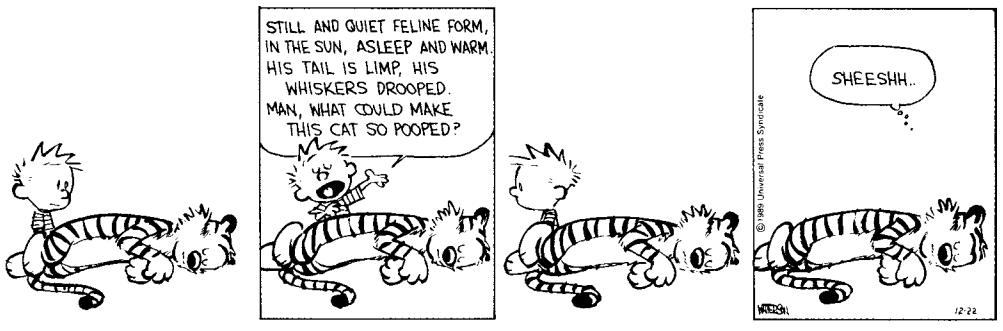
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


STILL AND QUIET FELINE FORM, IN THE SUN, ASLEEP AND WARM. HIS TAIL IS LIMP, HIS WHISKERS DROOPED. MAN, WHAT COULD MAKE THIS CAT SO POOPED?
SHEESHH..
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
12-22

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

MERRY CHRISTMAS, DAD!
YES, I WINTERIZED MY LAWN MOWER...
GOOD TALKING TO YOU, TOO!
DADS KEEP IT SHORT AND SWEET
JIM DAVIS 12-22
www.garfield.com
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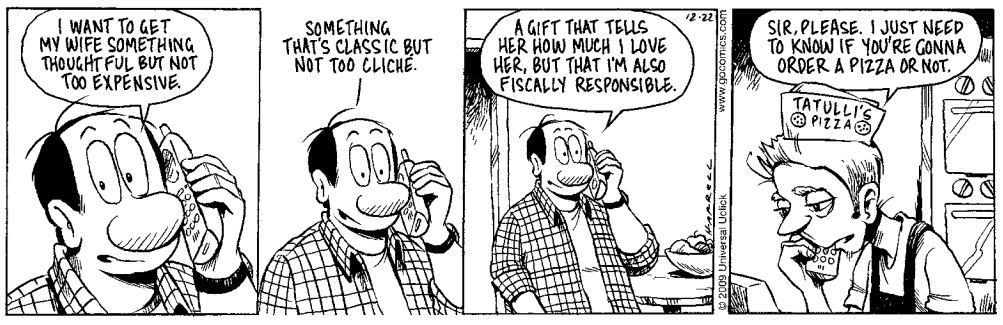
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I WANT TO GET MY WIFE SOMETHING THOUGHTFUL BUT NOT TOO EXPENSIVE.
SOMETHING THAT'S CLASSIC BUT NOT TOO CLICHE.
A GIFT THAT TELLS HER HOW MUCH I LOVE HER, BUT THAT I'M ALSO FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE.
12-22
SIR, PLEASE. I JUST NEED TO KNOW IF YOU'RE GONNA ORDER A PIZZA OR NOT.
TATULLI'S PIZZA
www.gocomics.com
© 2009 Universal Uclick

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**
1 Muslim pilgrimage
5 Omit
9 Omega preceder
12 Jai —
13 Golden Rule word
14 Rowing need
15 Cheating
17 "Birth — Nation"
18 Bird house?
19 Page or Pompeo
21 Smartens (up)
24 Book after Joel
25 Pale
26 Starving
30 Modern-day evidence
31 Legerdemain
32 Gorilla
33 Jogged un-togged?
35 Manitoba tribe
36 Swiss artist Paul
37 Creator
38 Bigfoot's family?
40 Part mine, part yours
42 Eggs
43 One-piece swimwear
48 Lair
49 Wedding shower?
50 Liniment target
51 Deluge refuge
52 Raw minerals
53 City on the Rhone

**DOWN**
1 Possessed
2 Foreman foe
3 Pickle holder
4 Unlicensed taxi
5 Dines
6 Entanglement
7 Judge Lance
8 Attack on one's opinions
9 Sly one with a cue
10 Secure
11 Persia, now
16 "Of course"
20 Part of UCLA
21 Bankrolls
22 "— It Romantic?"
23 Reality show for budding entrepreneurs
24 In the thick of
26 Charlatan
27 Census statistic
28 Duel tool
29 Antelope's playmate
31 Orchestra leader
34 Inventor Whitney
35 Informal
37 "— Miniver"
38 "Star Wars" sage
39 Always
40 Formerly
41 Banjos' kin
44 Melody
45 Unfriendly
46 However, in poetry
47 D.C. VIP

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | Z | I | O | ■ | M | E | A | ■ | G | E | E | K |
| G | O | L | D | B | E | R | G | ■ | L | I | R | A |
| G | O | L | D | M | I | N | E | ■ | I | R | O | N |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | J | O | N | ■ | L | A | T | E | S | T |
| A | D | H | O | C | ■ | D | I | S | C | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| B | O | O | B | ■ | M | E | M | P | H | I | S | ■ |
| E | L | L | ■ | L | E | W | I | S | ■ | D | O | C |
| ■ | T | Y | P | E | S | E | T | ■ | H | E | R | O |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | A | S | H | Y | ■ | M | E | A | T | Y |
| I | N | S | I | T | U | ■ | A | A | A | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| R | O | O | D | ■ | G | O | L | D | R | U | S | H |
| K | U | D | U | ■ | G | O | L | D | S | T | A | R |
| S | N | A | P | ■ | E | P | S | ■ | T | E | D | S |

Yesterday's answer 12-22

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | ■ | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | ■ | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | ■ | 13 | | | | ■ | 14 | | |
| 15 | | | | 16 | | | | | ■ | 17 | | |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | 18 | | | | ■ | 19 | 20 | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | | | ■ | ■ | 24 | | | | ■ | ■ |
| 25 | | | | ■ | 26 | 27 | | | | | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | ■ | 31 | | | | | ■ | 32 | | |
| 33 | | | 34 | | | | | ■ | 35 | | | |
| ■ | ■ | 36 | | | | ■ | ■ | 37 | | | | |
| 38 | 39 | | | | ■ | 40 | 41 | | | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| 42 | | | ■ | 43 | 44 | | | | | 45 | 46 | 47 |
| 48 | | | ■ | 49 | | | | ■ | 50 | | | |
| 51 | | | ■ | 52 | | | | ■ | 53 | | | |

**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Jordin Sparks, 20; Robin Gibb, 60; Steve Garvey, 61; Diane Sawyer, 64

**Happy Birthday**: You will question your past and present and will make the alterations to your life that enable you to excel in the future. You will have to work hard and focus on the people and projects most important to you. There is a lesson to be learned and a tough decision to be made. Clean up paperwork that might cause you problems should you change your lifestyle. Your numbers are 2, 6, 12, 20, 24, 31, 48

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Strategy and common sense will save the day. If you complicate matters by acting impulsively, you will have regrets and probably a tough time rectifying the problem. Use your energy and know-how wisely. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Last-minute rushing around will pay off. It's the little things you do for others that will count. A trip or visit will enable you to reunite with people you should try to see more often. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Don't give in to pressure being put on you by someone who has done something for you in the past. A change in a relationship will influence what you do this festive season. Do something special for someone questioning your choices. ✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): An interesting turn of events will change your status, your outlook and your attitude for the upcoming year. A burden may be placed on you but, if you take it on without question and do the best you can, it will make you look good and win someone's favor. ✪✪✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can expect things to change rapidly. You have to tidy up any loose ends now before it's too late. A financial or legal concern will leave you feeling emotional about what might have been. Put the past behind you. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Let everyone know how you feel and what your plans are. The feedback you get will build your confidence to carry on with your plans. A burden you've carried for a long time will come to a head. Prepare to let go. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The festive season is here and you should be engaging in plenty of social activities. An innovative gift will help break the silence between you and someone you've lost touch with. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take on any challenge that comes your way and you will prove a point to someone who has been questioning what you are doing. A couple of slight changes to something creative you are working on will turn a negative response into a positive. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your exuberance will cause some problems with a relationship that hasn't been going too well. Tone it down or prepare to walk away. A change at home may not be what you want but face facts and move on. ✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Reconnecting with old friends and family will warm the heart and help you put your life back in perspective. This is a great day to express your thanks and gratitude. Your acknowledgement will be appreciated. ✪✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Helping others will bring you in touch with someone you haven't seen for some time. Before you consider getting together with anyone from your past, remember why you moved on the last time you were together. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be emotional about personal matters but don't act impulsively or you may ruin a relationship important to your future. Get your facts straight. Someone may be trying to lead you in the wrong direction. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You have stamina, strength and courage. You are adaptable and creative and zealous in the way you approach things.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2 | 7 | | 3 | | 8 | |
| | | | | | 4 | 6 | | 2 |
| 4 | | | | 1 | | | 9 | |
| 6 | | | | | 2 | | 3 | 1 |
| | | 4 | | | | 9 | | |
| 5 | 8 | | 1 | | | | | 4 |
| | 6 | | | 4 | | | | 9 |
| 2 | | 7 | 6 | | | | | |
| | 9 | | 8 | | 7 | 1 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 |
| 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 6 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 4 |

Difficulty Level ★ 12/21

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**SALINE SOLUTIONS** **Solution: 13 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | M | U | I | D | O | S | U | L | F | A | T | E | C | E |
| O | A | R | E | T | E | M | O | M | S | O | P | C | D | H |
| N | T | S | A | S | I | H | E | H | C | R | I | E | T | A |
| M | L | Ⓡ | A | M | A | S | A | T | E | T | M | S | E | L |
| N | R | L | Ⓤ | L | U | L | O | S | A | A | N | E | O | I |
| A | T | O | O | Ⓞ | O | I | E | T | I | T | O | V | X | T |
| I | C | G | F | P | Ⓟ | R | S | M | O | C | E | A | I | E |
| D | E | I | H | O | V | O | E | E | T | N | E | C | D | T |
| N | E | Y | R | A | R | L | T | A | N | S | I | I | A | A |
| I | T | H | T | T | O | O | H | A | O | G | R | C | T | H |
| E | I | I | C | V | E | E | L | C | S | O | A | T | I | P |
| B | V | E | O | A | D | M | U | H | L | S | A | M | O | S |
| E | L | P | A | R | E | L | O | H | C | L | I | S | N | O |
| E | Y | U | O | E | G | L | C | S | U | L | F | U | R | H |
| H | S | N | E | N | I | R | B | S | I | E | L | O | M | P |

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Acetate, Bleach, Blue, Brine, Caves, Chloride, Chloroform, Cholera, Edema, Electrostatic, Glucose, Halite, Halogen, Halophyte, Hypovolemia, Indian, Isometric, Isotonic, Latta, Magnesium, Mole, Nasal, Octahedron, Osmometer, Oxidation, Phosphate, Potassium, Pour, Preservative, Salt, Sodium, Sulfate, Sulfur, Sylvite

**Yesterday's Answer: Glaciers**

**Treasury 7** Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
Intensive care

## FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

## STOLEN PASSPORT

Name : Li Yang
Date of Birth : Mar. 24, 1970
Passport No. : G30217213
Contact No. : 234-7743

## FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent.
For $230.00 / month
Koblerville, please call 288-0728

## FOR SALE

Pigs for Sale
Good for lechon ($2.50/lb)
Please call 287-4568

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

# JOB VACANCIES

## SHENANIGAN'S RESTAURANT

is looking for

**1 COOK**

(at least 2 years experience in International Food)

**2 KITCHEN HELPER/DISHWASHER**

**3 WAITER/WAITRESS**

Must have good command in English Communication (other languages is a plus), at least 2 years of experience in F&B services, preferably but not limited to IR, Green Card or US Citizen. Please submit your Resume and Police and Court Clearance at SHENANIGAN's Restaurant in Garapan, Former Herman's Bakery right beside MITA Travel.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

KIM CHANG SOOK and KIM JAE WON, Plaintiffs, -v- NOBUYUKI KUROSAWA AND AIOI INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD., Defendants. ) CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0473

**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, NOBUYUKI KUROSAWA:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LCC, the Plaintiffs Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared a signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to apear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/S/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 11th day of December, 2009.

Iluminanda R. Bermudes
P.O. Box 502796
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: No: 234-8196
*pro se*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re The Matter Of The Petition to Appoint General Guardianship For: JOHN FRANKLIN BERMUDES DELEON GUERRERO Minor Child By: ILUMINANDA REYES BERMUDES ) FCD GU ) CIVIL ACTION ) NO. 09-0683 ) ) NOTICE OF ) HEARING )

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 11, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo

Dated this 11th day of December, 2009.

Bernadita a. Sablan
Clerk of Court

By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

**Robert Tenorio Torres**
**Attorney at Law**
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670)234-7859
Fax: (670)234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT**
**FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**BANK OF GUAM,** Plainfiff, **CARMEN C. CABRERA,** Defendants. ] **Civil Action No. 08-0126-CV** **NOTICE OF SALE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 1, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in the following raw, undeveloped property, consisting of 1,098 sq.m., located in Gualo Rai, Saipan: Tract No. 21825-4-1-R1, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2098/84, the original of which was recorded September 18, 1984 as Document No. 84-1962 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on January 20, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.**

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before bid for such property is accepted.

   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

   c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, expect that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859'; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 25th day of November, 2009.

/s/ Robert T. Torrres, Auctioneer

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

*Saipan Tribune's* Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

*Saipan Tribune* also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

| ADS (7DAYS) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|
| • 3-Liner | $25 |
| • 5-Liner | $35 |
| • 3-Liner with picture | $45 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | $55 |

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

www.saipantribune.com

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235- NEWS

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SIEVE | SIEVE | SIEVE |
| SIEVE | CARE | SIEVE |
| SIEVE | | SIEVE |
| SIEVE | SIEVE | SIEVE |

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**Find today's solution in this section**

# Chargers top grieving Bengals 27-24 on late FG

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)— Nate Kaeding kicked a 52-yard field goal with 3 seconds left and the playoff-bound San Diego Chargers pulled out a dramatic 27-24 win over the grieving Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday.

The winning kick came after Philip Rivers moved the Chargers 46 yards in 51 seconds with no timeouts and backup center Dennis Norman snapping after Scott Mruckzkowski was injured.

A few minutes after the final gun, the Chargers clinched their fourth straight AFC West title when Denver lost 20-19 to Oakland.

San Diego (11-3) won its ninth straight game and clinched a playoff spot before halftime because of other results. The Bolts improved to 17-0 in December dating to 2006.

The Bengals (9-5) failed for the second straight week to clinch the AFC North.

Cincinnati, playing three days after the death of receiver Chris Henry, had tied the game at 24 on Shayne Graham's 34-yard field goal with 54 seconds left.

The Bengals were lucky to get in their tying field goal.

Two plays earlier, Andre Caldwell caught a pass from Carson Palmer, was hit by Eric Weddle and then linebacker Tim Dobbins popped the ball out of his hands and it sailed back to the 45, where Palmer jumped on it.

The Bengals dedicated the rest of the season to Henry. He died Thursday, a day after falling out of the back of a pickup truck during what police described as a domestic dispute with his fiancee in Charlotte, N.C. Henry was on injured reserve and out for the season.

After Chad Ochocinco caught a 49-yard touchdown pass from Carson Palmer to give the Bengals a 10-7 lead early in the second quarter, the receiver got down on both knees and touched his heart with his right hand.

The Bengals wore decals with Henry's No. 15 on their helmets. Several Bengals fans brought signs remembering Henry, including a simple "RIP 15."

Rivers threw three touchdown passes, two to Vincent Jackson.

Trailing 14-13 midway through the third quarter, Palmer missed Ochocinco and the ball went right to cornerback Quentin Jammer. Two plays later, Jackson got behind cornerback Leon Hall to haul in a 34-yard TD pass that put San Diego up 21-13.

AP

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Ochocinco leans against a poster in memory of Bengals' receiver Chris Henry after an NFL football game against the San Diego Chargers Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009 in San Diego.

Kaeding added a 33-yard field goal for an 11-point lead.

Keith Rivers intercepted Philip Rivers early in the fourth quarter to set up Palmer's 2-yard TD pass to Laveranues Coles and Palmer's conversion run to make it 24-21.

The Chargers led 14-13 at halftime. Rivers threw TD passes of 3 yards to Antonio Gates and 21 yards to Jackson.

Ochocinco had his 49-yard TD catch, and the Bengals twice had to settle for field goals by Graham after drives bottled up inside the Chargers' 10-yard line.

### Steelers 37, Packers 36

At Pittsburgh, Ben Roethlisberger threw a desperation 19-yard touchdown pass on the final play that ended the Packers' five-game winning streak and the Steelers' five-game losing streak.

The Packers stalled in their playoff run as they couldn't hold leads of 28-27 and 36-30 in a frantic fourth quarter. Green Bay could have secured a playoff spot with its first win in Pittsburgh since 1970 and a Giants loss or draw on Monday night.

The Steelers joined five other AFC teams tied at seven wins and seven losses in the chase for the AFC's last playoff spot.

### Titans 27, Dolphins 24, OT

At Nashville, Rob Bironas kicked a 46-yard field goal in overtime as Tennessee kept alive its slim playoff hopes for another week by holding off Miami.

Vince Young threw for a career-high three touchdowns and Chris Johnson ran for 104 yards as the Titans — with seven wins and seven losses — reached .500 for the first time this year. But the Titans made it far too interesting by blowing an 18-point lead.

### Panthers 26, Vikings 7

At Charlotte, Steve Smith caught the go-ahead touchdown pass and his long catch and run set up the clinching score and as the Panthers used a ferocious defense to stifle Brett Favre, Adrian Peterson and the Vikings.

Hours after clinching the NFC North when Green Bay lost, the Vikings failed to move within a game of NFC-leading New Orleans a night after the Saints' first loss of the season.

### Browns 41, Chiefs 34

At Kansas City, Jerome Harrison scored his third touchdown with 44 seconds left and rushed for a team-record 286 yards for the Browns.

Joshua Cribbs also returned two kickoffs for touchdowns in the first half, breaking the NFL career record and tying the single-game mark.

Harrison took it from there, scoring all of his touchdowns in the second half to break Jim Brown's team record of 237 yards, set in 1957 and 1961. He closed it out with a 28-yard run off right tackle to finish behind only Adrian Peterson and Corey Dillon in the NFL record book.

### Patriots 17, Bills 10

At Orchard Park, New York, the Patriots won their first road game on this side of the Atlantic this season by beating their AFC East rival for the 13th straight time and 18th time in 19 meetings.

The Bills were undone by 11 penalties for 124 yards, including a pair of pass-interference calls that set up New England's first two scores.

### Eagles 27, 49ers 13

At Philadelphia, Donovan McNabb threw for one touchdown and ran for another and DeSean Jackson had 140 yards receiving as the Eagles clinched a playoff berth for the eighth time this decade.

With San Francisco's loss, the Arizona Cardinals clinched their second straight NFC West title.

The Eagles (10-4) have won five straight games and have a one-game lead over Dallas in the NFC East.

### Cardinals 31, Lions 24

At Detroit, Kurt Warner threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Anquan Boldin with 1:54 left to help Arizona move a step closer toward clinching the NFC West.

The Cardinals needed a victory in Detroit and a San Francisco loss later in the day in Philadelphia to win consecutive division titles for the first time since 1974-75.

Arizona led 17-0 at halftime, then let the Lions make it 17-all in the third quarter and 24-all with 3:48 left.

### Raiders 20, Broncos 19

At Denver, JaMarcus Russell threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Chaz Schilens with 35 seconds left for the winner.

### Ravens 31, Bears 7

At Baltimore, Joe Flacco threw a career-high four touchdown passes as the Ravens capitalized on six Chicago turnovers.

Baltimore led 14-0 after 13 minutes and 31-7 after three quarters. The victory solidified the Ravens' hold on the sixth and final playoff spot in the AFC.

### Falcons 10, Jets 7

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Tony Gonzalez caught a 6-yard touchdown pass from Matt Ryan on a fourth-down play with 1:38 remaining as the Falcons, a day after being eliminated from playoff contention, also likely ended the chances for the Jets.

### Texans 16, Rams 13

At St. Louis, Matt Schaub had his eighth 300-yard passing game and Andre Johnson set a season best with 196 yards receiving, but the Texans ended up leaning on field goals to hold off the lowly Rams.

The Rams lost their 12th in a row at home and for the 23rd time in 24 games overall only three days after canceling practice after a confirmed case of swine flu.

### Buccaneers 24, Seahawks 7

At Seattle, rookie Josh Freeman shook off his ninth interception in just over two games to throw two touchdown passes in the second half.

Tampa Bay's 26th-ranked defense forced five turnovers by Seattle quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, as the Buccaneers won for just the second time in 17 games.

# NFL *to ask its players to donate brains for study*

**By HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP SPORTS WRITER

The NFL is partnering with Boston University brain researchers who have been critical of the league's stance on concussions, The Associated Press learned Sunday.

The league now plans to encourage current and former NFL players to agree to donate their brains to the Boston University Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy, which has said it found links between repeated head trauma and brain damage in boxers, football players and, most recently, a former NHL player.

"It's huge that the NFL actively gets behind this research," said Robert Cantu, a co-director of the BU center who has spoken negatively about the league in the past. "It forwards the research. It allows players to realize the NFL is concerned about the possibility that they could have this problem, and that the NFL is doing everything it can to find out about the risks and the preventive strategies that can be implemented."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello told the AP on Sunday that the league also is committed to giving $1 million or more to the center. "The precise amount hasn't been determined," Aiello said. "We will discuss it with them. It depends on their needs. We are committed to funding research" on brain injuries.

Robert Stern, an associate professor of neurology at the Boston University School of Medicine and one of Cantu's co-directors of the center, said the group is pleased that the NFL is playing a role.

"Although we discussed with the NFL how they might facilitate players' participation in our research into the long-term effects of repetitive head trauma in athletes, we did not request financial support to avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest," Stern said in a statement issued Sunday. "Any financial support from the NFL would need to be free of any real or perceived conflict of interest."

The BU group and the NFL Players Association jointly announced that the union also will work with the center and encourage players to participate in brain studies.

Stern noted that the league and union's support will allow research to "move at a much needed faster pace."

Aiello said the league already has held discussions with the NFL Alumni Association about suggesting that retired players look into participating in BU's work by offering their brains for study after they die.

The league also will contact the nearly 100 retired football players who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia and are receiving benefits from the league to ask their families to consider donating those players' brains to the BU study.

Cantu noted that three current NFL players—Cardinals wide receiver Sean Morey, Ravens center Matt Birk, and Seahawks linebacker Lofa Tatupu—already agreed to donate their brains for research after death.

"The people affiliated with the center have identified the donation of brains, both from healthy people and those that have had multiple concussions, as their most critical need right now to further the research into this disease," Aiello said. "We ... will discuss with the center its research needs as we go forward in this partnership."

Cantu said he and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell met in October to discuss concussions and the BU project.

Sunday's news represents the latest in a series of moves the NFL has made in recent weeks to step up its attention to concussions in the aftermath of a congressional hearing on the topic and as high-profile players such as Ben Roethlisberger, Kurt Warner, Clinton Portis and Brian Westbrook have been sidelined by head injuries this season.

# Bryant scores 28 points, Lakers beat Pistons

**AUBURN HILLS, Mich.** (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored 28 points and helped the Los Angeles Lakers build a big lead in a 93-81 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday night.

The Lakers took the lead with an 11-0 run midway through the first quarter, started the second ahead by 12, had an 18-point lead at halftime and a 21-point cushion after three quarters.

Los Angeles closed a trip with a four-game winning streak and an NBA-best 22-4 record.

Rodney Stuckey scored 16 points, Swedish rookie Jonas Jerebko had 15 and rookie reserve Austin Daye added 10 points for the Pistons.

Three of Detroit's best players wore sportcoats: Richard Hamilton, Ben Gordon and Tayshaun Prince.

The Lakers, though, didn't have much sympathy because travel woes led to them getting to their Detroit-area hotel at 4 a.m. Sunday after beating the New Jersey Nets on Saturday night.

Bryant looked more awake late in the first quarter when the Pistons allowed him to rebound his own missed free throw by simply taking one step forward to get the bouncing ball and making a jumper for a 22-13 lead.

Los Angeles coach Phil Jackson seemed to be resting Bryant, Ron Artest and Pau Gasol for the final quarter, but put the trio back in with 5 minutes left and a 15-point lead. Bryant likely gave Jackson what he was looking for, hustling to make a steal a couple minutes later and scoring on a layup.

Detroit pulled within eight points with 1:45 left, but Jackson called a timeout and Bryant made a shot, the Lakers made a stop and Gasol a layup to make it 93-81.

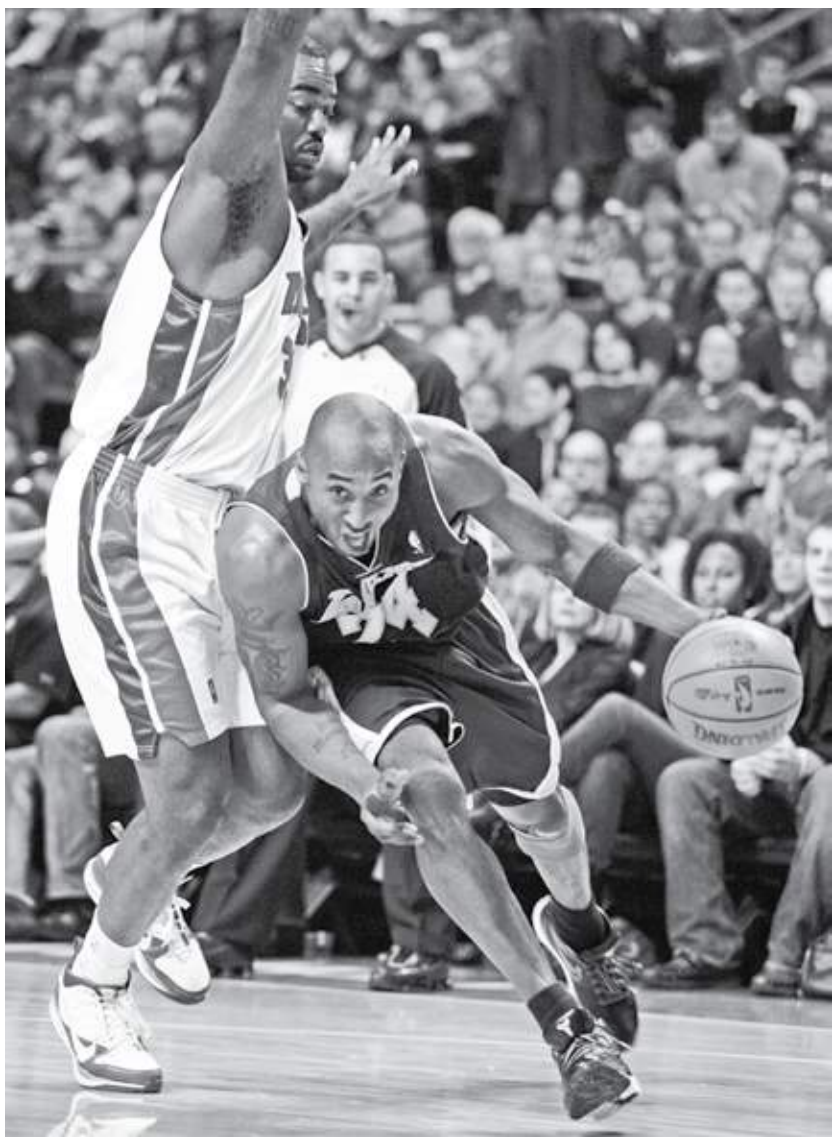
Detroit has lost four straight after winning five straight.

Andrew Bynum scored 16 points, Artest had 14 points and nine assists and Gasol added 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers. Artest's recent comments about Ben Wallace added intrigue about the matchup, but it ended up being very uneventful.

Artest said he was still ready to fight Wallace—the player who shoved him on the play that started the 2004 brawl with Pistons, Pacers and fans at The Palace—in a *Sporting News* interview.

Before the game, Artest said he doesn't have a problem with Wallace or anyone in Detroit.

Artest was often booed when he had the ball, but that was the extent of the jeering while he and Wallace showed no signs of animosity on the court.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, right, drives past Detroit Pistons guard Rodney Stuckey in the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

### Celtics 122, Timberwolves 104

At Boston, Paul Pierce scored 29 points and hit all six of his 3-point attempts as Boston finished with a season high in points.

Kendrick Perkins had 14 points to go with 11 rebounds, and Rajon Rondo had 13 points and 15 assists as the Celtics beat the Timberwolves for the sixth consecutive time since acquiring Kevin Garnett in an unprecedented 7-for-1 deal during the summer of 2007.

Jonny Flynn scored 21 points for Minnesota.

### Mavericks 102, Cavaliers 95

At Dallas, Tim Thomas took injured Dirk Nowitzki's spot in the starting lineup and scored 22 points, helping the Mavericks beat the Cleveland Cavaliers to spoil LeBron James' 500th career game.

The Cavs had won five straight and their previous four against the Mavericks, but they trailed the entire second half.

James had 25 points, six assists and three rebounds, but didn't get enough help. Mo Williams scored only eight points and Shaquille O'Neal was just 1 of 7 for five points.

### Knicks 98, Bobcats 94

At New York, Wilson Chandler scored 26 points, Danilo Gallinari added 21 and a huge blocked shot in the closing seconds as the hosts held on for a close win over the Charlotte Bobcats.

David Lee finished with 15 points and 15 rebounds for the Knicks, who won for the sixth time in eight games.

### Grizzlies 102, Nuggets 96

At Memphis, Zach Randolph had 32 points and a career-high 24 boards, the highest rebound total in the league this season.

Rudy Gay added 19 points for Memphis, which ended an eight-game losing streak to Denver. Marc Gasol had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and O.J. Mayo and Mike Conley scored 11 apiece.

Carmelo Anthony finished with 41 points for Denver.

### Trail Blazers 102, Heat 95

At Miami, Brandon Roy scored 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter and LaMarcus Aldridge added 22 for Portland, which trailed by six with 5 1/2 minutes remaining.

Dwyane Wade scored 28 points and had 10 assists for the Heat, but he was 13 of 31 from the field and didn't have a rebound for only the fourth time in his career. Quentin Richardson shot 7-for-7 from 3-point range, tying a Heat record, and added 22 points for Miami.

### Raptors 98, Hornets 92

At Toronto, Chris Bosh had 25 points and 11 rebounds for the Raptors.

Jarrett Jack had 15 points and Hedo Turkoglu scored 14 for the Raptors, who held the Hornets to 39 percent shooting.

David West had 21 points and 12 rebounds for New Orleans, which lost for the 11th time in 13 road games. Chris Paul, who had 30 points and a season-high 19 assists in Friday's 98-92 victory over Denver, finished with 10 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

## NBA BRIEFS

### Cuban files protest over Mavs' OT loss to Rockets

**DALLAS** (AP)—Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban officially filed a protest with the NBA office on Sunday over what he termed "misapplication of the rules" by the officiating crew during Friday night's overtime loss to the Houston Rockets. Cuban said the officials were wrong to eject Dallas center Erick Dampier in the overtime. Dampier was called for throwing an elbow that led to his ejection, and Cuban wants the final 1:01 of the overtime replayed with Houston in front, 110-104. The Mavericks went on to lose 116-108. Game officials went to a video review of the play on which Dampier was ruled to have thrown the elbow at Houston's Aaron Brooks, who received a technical on the same play for a flagrant foul-1 on Dampier. Officials upheld their call after the review and ejected Dampier for his second technical of the game. Cuban had 48 hours after the game to file the protest and send a $10,000 fee to the league. NBA officials have five days to rule on the protest. The officiating crew was Ken Mauer, Brian Forte and John Goble. "There are several circumstances where you can assign a technical for an elbow, and we said that's fine, we don't have a problem with that....But when you look at that video, there's no question that wasn't an elbow with intention to harm, there wasn't even an elbow thrown," Cuban said. "By any reasonable standard, that change should have been made. I'm sure the ref didn't know he could make that change, which is a misapplication of the rules."

### Knicks' Walsh will talk trade with Nate's agent

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Knicks president Donnie Walsh says he will probably begin discussions with Nate Robinson's agent Monday about a request to trade the benched guard. That's assuming Robinson really wants to be dealt. Robinson said Sunday his preference is to stay with the Knicks, the day after his agent told Walsh he would like to look into getting his client out of New York. The request came after Robinson was benched for eight straight games by coach Mike D'Antoni. Robinson says he is still ready to play for the Knicks, but added, "I haven't got that privilege to play the way that I like to play."

### Nowitzki out because of sore elbow after collision

**DALLAS** (AP)—Dirk Nowitzki missed Dallas' game against Cleveland on Sunday night because of soreness in his elbow, where two teeth belonging to Houston's Carl Landry wound up following a collision a few nights before. "I tried (shooting), but it's just too sore," said Nowitzki, his arm bandaged from his elbow to his wrist. Nowitzki needed several stitches to repair the gash in his right elbow, which he suffered during the second quarter of an overtime loss to the Rockets on Friday night. He shot two free throws left handed, then went to the locker room and didn't return. Coach Rick Carlisle isn't sure when his star will play again. Dallas next plays Portland at home on Tuesday night. "We'll see where he's at each day," Carlisle said. Nowitzki is averaging 26.1 points per game, sixth in the league. This was the first game he's missed this season.

### Snowstorm leaves 2 refs for Celtics-Wolves game

**BOSTON** (AP)—The Celtics and Minnesota Timberwolves played with two referees on Sunday night because the winter storm that blanketed the East Coast with snow prevented the third, Leon Wood, from making it to Boston. Celtics spokesman Brian Olive said Wood, who was assigned to Saturday night's game between the Thunder and Rockets in Houston, could not make it because of flight delays. Derrick Stafford and Kevin Fehr worked the game in Boston as scheduled.

# A's close to deal to acquire Crisp

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—The Oakland Athletics were closing in on a deal Sunday with free-agent outfielder Coco Crisp on a one-year contract with a club option for the 2011 season.

A person with knowledge of the negotiations confirmed an impending deal on condition of anonymity because a formal announcement had not been made by the club. That could come soon.

The 30-year-old Crisp can play all three outfield positions but is primarily a center fielder. While the A's have been happy with Rajai Davis, he might wind up playing one of the corner spots to clear room for Crisp in center.

Crisp underwent season-ending shoulder surgery in June and batted .228 with three home runs and 14 RBIs in only 49 games last season for the Kansas City Royals, who last month declined their $8 million option to bring Crisp back in 2010.

Crisp, who could bat leadoff or high in the order for the A's, has said he expects to be full strength by the start of spring training in February.

He was traded to the Royals from the Boston Red Sox in November 2008. He spent parts of three seasons with Boston following four years with the Cleveland Indians. Before his shortened 2009 campaign, the speedy Crisp had stolen at least 15 bases in all but his rookie season with Cleveland in '02.

Crisp would be just the latest move in an active winter for Oakland general manager Billy Beane, who earlier this month acquired third baseman Jake Fox, second baseman Aaron Miles and cash considerations from the Chicago Cubs for three players.

Oakland also was included in the big four-team, nine-player swap Wednesday featuring Cliff Lee and Roy Halladay that brought outfielder Michael Taylor to the A's. Oakland sent third baseman Brett Wallace to Toronto.

Beane is committed to largely rebuilding the organization from the ground up, starting at the lowest levels of the farm system, while finding key pieces from the outside that fit the mix.

The A's finished with 75 wins for the second straight season and in last place in the AL West, losing their final seven games.

# Woods wins US PGA Tour player of the year

**PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida** (AP)—Tiger Woods was voted the U.S. PGA Tour player of the year by the players on Friday, the 10th time in his 13 years on tour that he has won the award.

The tour does not disclose vote totals.

Woods started and finished the season the same way—with questions when he would return. He was coming off knee surgery at the beginning of the year, and last week announced an indefinite leave to work on his marriage after admitting to infidelity.

In between, he won six tour events, captured the FedEx Cup and its $10 million bonus, won the money title for the ninth time in his career with over $10.5 million, and had the lowest scoring average for the ninth time.

No one else won more than three times on the U.S. PGA Tour. It was only the second time that Woods was voted player of the year when he did not win a major. In a peculiar twist, Woods won in his final start before each of the four majors.

Marc Leishman of Australia was voted tour rookie of the year, becoming the first since Charles Howell III in 2001 to win the award without having won a tournament. Leishman was the only rookie to reach the FedEx Cup finale at the Tour Championship.

Players voted on the awards over the last month, with balloting ending on Friday.

It was the eighth time that Woods has swept all the major U.S. PGA Tour honors—Byron Nelson Award for the lowest adjusted scoring average (68.05), Arnold Palmer Award for the money title and Jack Nicklaus Award for player of the year.

## OL'ACES

*From Page 28*

first quarter to take a 14-11 lead, but that was the only time they took the driver's seat, as Diamond recovered in the second period.

Diamond limited Hoopaholics to eight points in the second canto to seize the lead at halftime, 33-22. The lead ballooned to 17 at the end of the third period, 59-42, behind Elmer Esdrelon and J.R. Barrios' outside sniping.

Hoopaholics had repeated comeback bids, but Joseph Villacrusis' triples in the fourth period were not enough to save his team from absorbing their third loss in as many games.

Esdrelon top-scored for Diamond with 28 points, while Barrios finished with 20. Mel Capalad and John Artates had 10 apiece.

Peter Mendiola led Hoopaholics' losing cause, nailing 21 markers.

### First Game

**Diamond 82 –** Esdrelon 28, Barrios 20, Artates 10, M. Capalad 10, Wesley 6, W. Capalad 4.

**Hoopaholics 66 –** Mendiola 21, Jo. Villacrusis 11, Mendez 10, Manibusan 9, Diaz 5, Ja. Villacrusis 4, Sablan 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 11-14, 33-22, 59042, 82-66.

### Second Game

**Ol'Aces 92 –** Iguel 21, Barcinas 17, Lizama 16, Tumaquip 13, L. Rangamar 6, White 3, Omar 2.

**Noni Saipan 67 –** Bernardo 30, Abuel 14, Lerio 12, Demapan 9, Pangelinan 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 25-9, 54-27, 70-47, 92-67.

## PALAXI

*From Page 28*

er opponents.

However, Sablan made sure he will not be included on Bamba's list of victims, as the Saipan fighter used his quickness to unleash several punches and kicks to the face and body of the Guam bet before taking the bout to the canvas.

The Sablan-Bamba bout was the last of the five featured cards in the Saipan vs. Guam fights. Guam went 4-0 before Sablan saved the day for Saipan.

The debuting Dillian Pablo challenged Jay "Taby" Muna in the first Saipan vs. Guam bout with the former giving Guam a 1-0 win after a rear-naked choke victory at the 1:33 mark of the first round.

The much quicker Pablo used a couple of kicks and a few punches against Muna, who had blood running down his nose. He then brought the Saipan fighter down to the mat, forcing guest referee Frank "The Crank" Camacho to pull the plug on Muna.

Dillian's brother, Kyle saw action in the fourth bout of the night and scored a similar rear-naked choke win over Kev "The Rev" Esteves at the 1:05 mark of the first round.

Guam made it 3-0 when Josh Alvarez posted a submission win via a straight arm lock against Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar with only five seconds left in the first round.

Alvarez and Rangamar gave MMA fans at the Royal Taga Hall a hell of the fight, as combatants traded strong punches and neither seemed willing to let his guards down. After more than four minutes of flurry exchange of blows, Alvarez managed to corner Rangamar, who could not move out of the trap and finally decided to tap out.

Spike 22's Tony "Rush" Reyes made it four in a row for Guam when he stopped Maitai "The Charger" Charley of Marianas Elite at the 1:57 mark of the first round via rear-naked choke.

Reyes won despite accepting Charley's challenge only on two days notice. The lanky Reyes was not in top fighting form, but used his mobility to bring Charley to the ground and end the match early.

Before the Saipan vs. Guam cards, Trench Tech scheduled two fights as teasers for an exciting and action-packed night in the octagon cage.

Lionel "The Hellion" Borja and "Bi" Ron Chisato opened the night with their 185-lb. bout. Borja prevailed on a submission via rear-naked choke at the 1:49 mark of the first round.

The second fight featured a man-mountain clash between Jeff "Thunder" Cloud and Robert "Pitbull" Palacios. Before the bout, Palacios was seen going for strong blows, hitting one corner of the octagon. However, he used only a few of those solid punches, as Cloud leaned on his jiu jitsu skills to lock Palacios and won via a triangle choke at the 1:54 mark of the first round.

## TWO

*From Page 28*

by four, 3-7. Pitcher Gloyd Martin led SaiPal's run in the third inning when he blasted a two-run homer. Second baseman J.D. Dikito also recorded two RBIs in that rally with his triple driving Jason Hayes and Cliffton Sillil home.

Martin went 3-for-4 at the plate and scored one run and three RBIs. Dikito also went 3-for-4 at bat and made three runs and two triples.

### Red Eye 17, Fuegu 11

In the second game, Red Eye sustained a good start en route to a 17-11 win over Fuegu.

Red Eye gained its second win in three games, while Fuegu dropped to a 1-2 mark.

Fuegu's erratic start allowed Red Eye to score three unearned runs at the top of the first inning and take a 6-3 lead. Red Eye tallied seven more in the next three innings, while Fuegu answered with only four, giving the former a 13-7 lead. Fuegu only managed to match Red Eye's four runs in the last two innings, failing to extend the game.

Jose Santos led Red Eye with his 3-for-4 stint at bat, three runs, and a triple.

### Blazers 20, Go for Broke 10

Blazers broke into the win column after shattering Go for Broke, 20-10.

Go for Broke had the lead after two complete innings, 9-8, but scored only one run in the last four innings to fall short of moving up the team standings.

After being shutout in the third, Blazers recovered with a seven-run bottom of the fourth to take the lead, 15-9, and never looked back from thereon.

Jesus Taitano went 3-for-4 at the plate and scored four runs, one double, and three RBIs. Ray Quitano went only 1-for-3 at bat, but logged three RBIs, making a two-run double in the first. Pat Blas was perfect at the plate, going 4-for-4 and firing four runs and one RBI.

### 6-Pack 20, Freedom Air 8

6-Pack grounded Freedom Air, 20-8, to notch its second straight win after losing to Fuegu in its debut in the league

An eight-run top of the fifth helped 6-Pack turn an 8-5 lead to a 16-6 advantage. 6-Pack then kept the big lead and the easy win after giving up only one run to Freedom Air in the last two innings.

Lucian George had four RBIs for 6-Pack, blasted two triples, and posted four RBIs. Ota Nobuyuki and Kuki Pangelinan recorded two RBIs each with the former hitting 3-for-5 at the plate and the latter going 2-for-5.

## JONES

*From Page 28*

6-4, 6-2, and then topped Jack Hopkins and Christian Duchnak, 6-4, 6-4. In the quarterfinals, Jones and Nicholas lost to the Kiwi pair, 2-6, 2-6.

The Commonwealth netter also played in the boys' 14-and-under singles and doubles, and 16-and-under singles division of his first tournament in New Zealand this year.

In the boys' 14-and-under singles, Jones won his first match against Paddy Cameron, 6-2, 6-2, but lost to Jack Guilford, 6-3, 6-1, in the Round of 32.

In the boys' 14-and-under doubles, Jones paired anew with Nichols and they prevailed in two matches before bowing to Matthew Sheedy and Jacob Carey in the quarterfinals, 0-6, 4-6.

In the boys' 16-and-under singles, Jones was in the 128-player main draw and was pitted first against Harry Hopkins and won in one of his toughest games in New Zealand, 7-6, 7-5. Jones failed to make it two in a row when he lost to Prashant Girdhar, 6-1, 6-1, in the Round of 62.

The Saipan International School student dropped to the consolation draw where he notched two wins before bowing to Isaac Barclay in the quarterfinals, 6-3, 0-6, 6-7. Jones won over Aidan Batten, 6-0, 6-0, and Reid Fullerton, 6-4, 4-6, 12-10.

Jones was scheduled to compete in the 2009 Poverty Bay East Coast Ray White Junior Championship in Gisborne (Dec. 14 to 17) and the 2008 Auckland Christmas Tournament (Dec. 17-23), but results of his matches were unavailable as of press time.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 21 | 5 | .808 | _ |
| Toronto | 13 | 17 | .433 | 10 |
| New York | 10 | 17 | .370 | 11 1/2 |
| Philadelphia | 7 | 20 | .259 | 14 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 2 | 26 | .071 | 20 |

**Southeast Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orlando | 20 | 7 | .741 | _ |
| Atlanta | 19 | 7 | .731 | 1/2 |
| Miami | 13 | 12 | .520 | 6 |
| Charlotte | 10 | 16 | .385 | 9 1/2 |
| Washington | 8 | 17 | .320 | 11 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | 20 | 8 | .714 | _ |
| Milwaukee | 11 | 14 | .440 | 7 1/2 |
| Detroit | 11 | 16 | .407 | 8 1/2 |
| Chicago | 10 | 15 | .400 | 8 1/2 |
| Indiana | 9 | 16 | .360 | 9 1/2 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 20 | 8 | .714 | _ |
| Houston | 16 | 11 | .593 | 3 1/2 |
| San Antonio | 14 | 10 | .583 | 4 |
| New Orleans | 12 | 14 | .462 | 7 |
| Memphis | 12 | 15 | .444 | 7 1/2 |

**Northwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 19 | 9 | .679 | _ |
| Utah | 16 | 11 | .593 | 2 1/2 |
| Portland | 17 | 12 | .586 | 2 1/2 |
| Oklahoma City | 13 | 13 | .500 | 5 |
| Minnesota | 5 | 23 | .179 | 14 |

**Pacific Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Lakers | 22 | 4 | .846 | _ |
| Phoenix | 18 | 9 | .667 | 4 1/2 |
| L.A. Clippers | 12 | 14 | .462 | 10 |
| Sacramento | 12 | 14 | .462 | 10 |
| Golden State | 7 | 19 | .269 | 15 |

**Yesterday's Games**

Toronto 98, New Orleans 92
Memphis 102, Denver 96
L.A. Lakers 93, Detroit 81
Portland 102, Miami 95
Boston 122, Minnesota 104
New York 98, Charlotte 94
Dallas 102, Cleveland 95

### NBA LEADERS

**SCORING**

| | G | FG | FT | PTS | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anthony, DEN | 27 | 279 | 233 | 814 | 30.1 |
| Bryant, LAL | 25 | 270 | 158 | 722 | 28.9 |
| James, CLE | 27 | 267 | 198 | 777 | 28.8 |
| Durant, OKC | 26 | 237 | 200 | 707 | 27.2 |
| Wade, MIA | 24 | 213 | 191 | 638 | 26.6 |
| Nowitzki, DAL | 27 | 251 | 183 | 705 | 26.1 |
| Ellis, GOL | 26 | 252 | 122 | 641 | 24.7 |
| Bosh, TOR | 29 | 236 | 211 | 689 | 23.8 |
| Arenas, WAS | 25 | 189 | 126 | 551 | 22.0 |
| Roy, POR | 28 | 215 | 150 | 615 | 22.0 |
| Johnson, ATL | 26 | 218 | 87 | 560 | 21.5 |
| Gay, MEM | 25 | 195 | 110 | 520 | 20.8 |
| Jennings, MIL | 25 | 186 | 83 | 508 | 20.3 |
| Duncan, SAN | 22 | 178 | 85 | 441 | 20.0 |
| Evans, SAC | 25 | 184 | 120 | 500 | 20.0 |
| Stoudemire, PHX | 27 | 204 | 131 | 539 | 20.0 |
| Boozer, UTA | 27 | 215 | 106 | 536 | 19.9 |
| Stuckey, DET | 26 | 189 | 132 | 516 | 19.8 |
| Williams, UTA | 25 | 181 | 103 | 494 | 19.8 |
| Iguodala, PHL | 27 | 185 | 122 | 530 | 19.6 |

**FG PERCENTAGE**

| | FG | FGA | PCT |
|---|---|---|---|
| Perkins, BOS | 118 | 184 | .641 |
| Howard, ORL | 156 | 247 | .632 |
| Gasol, MEM | 141 | 230 | .613 |
| Millsap, UTA | 118 | 203 | .581 |
| Horford, ATL | 145 | 250 | .580 |
| Hilario, DEN | 136 | 236 | .576 |
| Bynum, LAL | 148 | 259 | .571 |
| Landry, HOU | 154 | 270 | .570 |
| Lee, NYK | 193 | 339 | .569 |
| O'Neal, MIA | 122 | 217 | .562 |

**REBOUNDS**

| | G | OFF | DEF | TOT | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Howard, ORL | 27 | 103 | 249 | 352 | 13.0 |
| Wallace, CHA | 25 | 57 | 245 | 302 | 12.1 |
| Noah, CHI | 25 | 105 | 194 | 299 | 12.0 |
| Camby, LAC | 26 | 79 | 226 | 305 | 11.7 |
| Bosh, TOR | 29 | 98 | 225 | 323 | 11.1 |
| Boozer, UTA | 27 | 56 | 237 | 293 | 10.9 |
| Duncan, SAN | 22 | 72 | 166 | 238 | 10.8 |
| Haywood, WAS | 25 | 109 | 159 | 268 | 10.7 |
| Randolph, MEM | 26 | 115 | 151 | 266 | 10.2 |
| Lee, NYK | 26 | 60 | 202 | 262 | 10.1 |

**ASSISTS**

| | G | AST | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nash, PHX | 27 | 308 | 11.4 |
| Paul, NOR | 17 | 193 | 11.4 |
| Williams, UTA | 25 | 254 | 10.2 |
| Rondo, BOS | 25 | 237 | 9.5 |
| Kidd, DAL | 27 | 248 | 9.2 |
| James, CLE | 27 | 215 | 8.0 |
| B. Davis, LAC | 26 | 196 | 7.5 |
| Arenas, WAS | 25 | 174 | 7.0 |
| Westbrook, OKC | 26 | 172 | 6.6 |
| Duhon, NYK | 26 | 167 | 6.4 |

### NFL STANDINGS

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 9 | 5 | 0 | .643 | 365 | 244 |
| Miami | 7 | 7 | 0 | .500 | 316 | 333 |
| N.Y. Jets | 7 | 7 | 0 | .500 | 282 | 221 |
| Buffalo | 5 | 9 | 0 | .357 | 225 | 288 |

**South**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-Indianapolis | 14 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 394 | 248 |
| Jacksonville | 7 | 7 | 0 | .500 | 266 | 322 |
| Tennessee | 7 | 7 | 0 | .500 | 320 | 347 |
| Houston | 7 | 7 | 0 | .500 | 327 | 286 |

**North**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cincinnati | 9 | 5 | 0 | .643 | 288 | 244 |
| Baltimore | 8 | 6 | 0 | .571 | 350 | 225 |
| Pittsburgh | 7 | 7 | 0 | .500 | 315 | 280 |
| Cleveland | 3 | 11 | 0 | .214 | 199 | 349 |

**West**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-San Diego | 11 | 3 | 0 | .786 | 389 | 283 |
| Denver | 8 | 6 | 0 | .571 | 275 | 250 |
| Oakland | 5 | 9 | 0 | .357 | 175 | 335 |
| Kansas City | 3 | 11 | 0 | .214 | 240 | 383 |

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**East**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y-Philadelphia | 10 | 4 | 0 | .714 | 399 | 286 |
| Dallas | 9 | 5 | 0 | .643 | 320 | 250 |
| N.Y. Giants | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 341 | 330 |
| Washington | 4 | 9 | 0 | .308 | 234 | 251 |

**South**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-New Orleans | 13 | 1 | 0 | .929 | 483 | 298 |
| Atlanta | 7 | 7 | 0 | .500 | 312 | 312 |
| Carolina | 6 | 8 | 0 | .429 | 251 | 289 |
| Tampa Bay | 2 | 12 | 0 | .143 | 214 | 363 |

**North**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-Minnesota | 11 | 3 | 0 | .786 | 396 | 269 |
| Green Bay | 9 | 5 | 0 | .643 | 380 | 280 |
| Chicago | 5 | 9 | 0 | .357 | 254 | 322 |
| Detroit | 2 | 12 | 0 | .143 | 233 | 437 |

**West**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-Arizona | 9 | 5 | 0 | .643 | 337 | 282 |
| San Francisco | 6 | 8 | 0 | .429 | 282 | 269 |
| Seattle | 5 | 9 | 0 | .357 | 257 | 325 |
| St. Louis | 1 | 13 | 0 | .071 | 159 | 377 |

**x-clinched division**
**y-clinched playoff spot**

**Yesterday's Games**

Tennessee 27, Miami 24, OT
Arizona 31, Detroit 24
Atlanta 10, N.Y. Jets 7
Houston 16, St. Louis 13
New England 17, Buffalo 10
Cleveland 41, Kansas City 34
Oakland 20, Denver 19
San Diego 27, Cincinnati 24
Baltimore 31, Chicago 7
Tampa Bay 24, Seattle 7
Pittsburgh 37, Green Bay 36
Philadelphia 27, San Francisco 13
Carolina 26, Minnesota 7

*BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS*

### LOCAL SCORES

**UBA STANDINGS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Advance | 3 | 0 |
| Ol'Aces | 3 | 0 |
| Prospect | 2 | 1 |
| Diamond | 2 | 1 |
| Noni Saipan | 1 | 2 |
| Cholos | 1 | 2 |
| Hoopaholics | 0 | 3 |
| Trinity | 0 | 3 |

**BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Natibu | 3 | 0 |
| Island Rebels | 3 | 0 |
| SaiPal | 2 | 0 |
| Chura | 2 | 1 |
| Man Amigos | 2 | 1 |
| Ur Balls | 2 | 1 |
| San Roque | 2 | 1 |
| 6-Pack | 2 | 1 |
| Red Eye | 2 | 1 |
| Blazers | 1 | 1 |
| Hitz | 1 | 1 |
| Go For Broke | 1 | 2 |
| Team Fuegu | 1 | 2 |
| Freedom Air Flyers | 1 | 2 |
| Ramblers | 1 | 2 |
| Team Familia | 1 | 2 |
| Lancheros | 1 | 2 |
| Berdax | 1 | 2 |
| Calikano-Falcons | 0 | 2 |
| X-Terminators | 0 | 2 |
| G-Ballers | 0 | 3 |

# NMIFA Men's Yearend Football Tournament

**PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO**

Inter Godfather's and MP United players in action during their championship game.

MP United' Tiger Lee hoists the championship trophy after his team beat Inter Godfather's in the finals of the 2009 NMIFA Men's Yearend Football Tournament at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

An MP United player uses his right hand to push away an Inter Godfather's defender.

Inter Godfather's Arkie Reusora uses his body to keep the ball.

Inter Godfather's and MP United players watch the ball move away from their spot.

Inter Godfather's Chris Nelson goes for a kick.

Inter Godfather's Peter Houk keeps the ball away from an MP United defender.

MP United goalie Mafijul Islam kicks the ball.

MP United's Nick Swaim gets a hi-five from his teammates after scoring the winning goal in the second half.

An MP United striker kicks the ball, while Inter Godfather's Bruce Berline looks on.

**Chargers top grieving Bengals 27-24 on late FG**

Nate Kaeding kicked a 52-yard field goal with 3 seconds left and the playoff-bound San Diego Chargers pulled out a dramatic 27-24 win over the grieving Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Bryant scores 28 points, Lakers beat Pistons**

Kobe Bryant scored 28 points and helped the Los Angeles Lakers build a big lead in a 93-81 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday night. 25

# Ol'Aces, Diamond whip foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ol'Aces kept their unbeaten record, while Diamond recovered from a loss after routing separate opponents in the Inaugural 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League on Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Ol'Aces crushed Noni Saipan, 92-67, to improve to a 3-0 win-loss record and gain a share of the lead with Advance X-Terminators, while Diamond downed Hoopaholics, 82-66, to move up to a 2-1 slate. Hoopaholics dropped to a 0-3 mark, while Noni Saipan absorbed its second loss in three games.

Pete Iguel scored Ol'Aces' first five points and they went on to dominate the game all night, as the Elias Rangamar-coached squad waxed hot from downtown. Ol'Aces canned eight triples against Noni's only four.

Noni was held to four field goals in the first period, which ended with Ol'Aces ahead by 14, 25-9. Iguel drilled three triples in the opening period and nailed 12 of his 21 markers in that canto.

Dan Barcinas, Jose Tumaquip, and Jack Lizama joined the scoring spree in the second canto to increase Ol'Aces' lead at halftime, 54-27. Tumaquip canned three triples in the second period, Lizama made eight points, and Barcinas added six.

Ol'Aces' guns were still blazing in the second half, as Barcinas started the third period with a triple. Noni Saipan had little answer against Ol'Aces' hot shooting, as the latter was still missing gunner Bon Tamayo due to an injury.

In the first game, there was a shootout too between Diamond and Hoopaholics with the former prevailing in the end. Diamond made seven triples against Hoopaholics' six.

Hoopaholics made two triples in the

*See OL'ACES on Page 26*

Jack Lizama, seen here going for a left-handed layup against Hoopaholics defender, scored 16 points in the Ol'Aces' 92-67 rout of Noni Saipan during their game in the UBA caging on Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rafael Jones, seen here going for a return in a local tournament, is in New Zealand for three junior tennis events.

## Jones reaches quarterfinals in New Zealand

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior netter had his best showing in the boys' 16-and-under doubles of the Coca-Cola Waikato Junior Tournament 2009 when he made it to the quarterfinals of the netfest held in Hamilton.

Jones teamed up with Ngana Nicholas and they won two matches in the main draw of the boys' 16-and-under doubles to move into the quarterfinals against the pair of New Zealand's Jonathan Merchant and Connor Smith.

Jones and Nicholas first defeated Riley May and Michael Bruen,

*See JONES on Page 26*

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan connects on a kick to Guam's Wyneu "1 Time" Bamba during their bout in the first round in Friday's Trench Wars 11: Redemption held at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

## Palaxi is lone man standing for Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

*Last of a two-part series*

Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan saved Saipan from a shutout against Guam in Friday's Trench Wars 11: Redemption held at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

Sablan was pitted against Guam's Wyneu "1 Time" Bamba and won via a tap-out on a rear-naked choke with only two seconds left in the first round.

The Saipan and Guam bets exchanged blows in the early goings of the first round before Sablan pinned down Bamba in the last 30 seconds of the bout and began to neutralize the visiting fighter.

The stocky Bamba had his debut in Trench Wars and was billed as a tough combatant. Ring announcer L.J. Castro warned fans not to be deceived by the short and stout Guam fighter, as Bamba had already proven in the past he can beat much taller and lean-

*See PALAXI on Page 26*

## Two in a row for SaiPal

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

SaiPal became only the third team to remain unbeaten in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League after thwarting Calikano, 18-14, on Friday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The victory was second in as many games for SaiPal, which joined Natibu and Island Rebels on the list of undefeated teams in the 21-squad league. Natibu and Island Rebels are leading the league with their identical 3-0 slates.

SaiPal used a nine-run bottom of the third to grab the lead, 12-7, after trailing

*See TWO on Page 26*

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blazers players exchange hi-fives during their early games in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball at the Capital Hill Ballfield.